

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
 September 22, 2024, through September 29, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Strife in the House of David — This week’s Biblical narrative begins with the prophet Nathan being sent to King David to call him to repentance. David had transgressed grievously, committing adultery with Bathsheba, and arranging for the death of her husband to cover his sin. No one can hide from God. In love for David, Nathan was called to do the hard thing: call him to repent. Nathan’s ministry to David was characterized by using language that, though it exposed his sin, did so in such a way that this prodigal king would be called back to the love of the Lord from which he had strayed. David repented. He confessed. He was absolved of his sin. But strife and calamity would follow him for the rest of his days. The child conceived in adultery would die. Another son, Absalom, would betray him and try to steal his throne. Every conceivable difficulty would be experienced in his household and kingdom. Why? Did these terrible things mean that the Lord did NOT forgive him? By no means! Rather, through the things that David suffered, he would learn reliance upon the Lord’s grace alone. We see this miracle of repentant faith throughout David’s prayers in the psalter.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Life Is More than Food and Clothing!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 6:25

“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink;
 nor about your body, what you will put on.
 Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Psalm 116 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, I love You because You love Me, and Your ears are always open to my prayers. Teach me to call upon You as long as I live and in every time of need. When the pain of death surrounds me, deliver my soul. I am Your servant, grant me faithfulness to You all the days of my life; in Your holy name, I pray. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43
Evening	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy on the Sabbath—Luke 14:1-11	
Monday	The Prophet Nathan Confronts David with His Sin—2 Sam. 11:26–12:15	Titus 3:1-15
Tuesday	David’s Son Dies and Solomon Is Born—2 Samuel 12:16-25	James 1:1-11
Wednesday	Absalom Dishonors His Father by Treason—2 Samuel 15:1-15	James 1:12-27
Thursday	Absalom’s Defeat and Death—2 Samuel 18:1, 5-18, 31–19:6	James 2:1-13
Friday	David’s Sacrifice—1 Chronicles 21:1–22:1	James 2:14-26
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Second Reading—Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3	Revelation 12:7-12

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right but help and be of service to him in keeping it.	Second Grade +
What is the Tenth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him but urge them to stay and do their duty.	Second Grade +

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptism: Penelope Doris Gehlbach, infant daughter of Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach.

Baptismal Anniversaries: Ken Dumke, Randy Kirk, Samantha Bender, Angela Volquardsen, Aubrey Hoffmann (9/22), Lucas Dubnicka, Ethan Krueger (9/24), Tim Frerking, Richard Gallagher, Sherry Prowatzke (9/25), August Christopherson, Ben Banasik (9/26), Matthew Hendrickson (9/27), Breanna Herzberg, Donna Aufdemberge (9/28).

Wedding Anniversaries: Ben and Betsy Banasik (9/22), Ed and Michelle Ratzlaff (9/28).

The Sick: Lauren, (friend of the Carus family) critically ill and in need of a lung transplant; James Lampen, (father of Karen Frerking) in rehab; Rev. Luke Boehringer recovering from cancer surgery Rev. David Groth, Jeanette Kellar, Rick Schuerman, Jean Reuss, and Steve Hayes (brother-in-law of Marty & Jon Bruss) in cancer treatment.

Those in Hospice: Yet Ngor Wong.

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Bill Spilger.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” (stanzas 1-3)

819

Looking forward to the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

September 29, 2024

Hymns: 670, TLH 254, 521, 621, 940, 708

Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3: The archangel Michael is described as a guardian of God’s people and of the Church of Jesus Christ. **Revelation 12:7-12:** Michael is described as an “archangel” or “chief angel” who leads the angels of God against the great dragon, called the Devil and Satan, and all his evil angels. The battle is waged on the basis of what Christ has done for us in His death. He “crushed” the Serpent’s head by taking the death of sinful humanity upon Himself. By doing this, Jesus robbed Satan of His power to accuse us. This is why it is said of the angels and the Christians, “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

Matthew 18:1-11: The Gospel for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels includes Jesus’ catechesis on the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” In the mind of the sinful flesh, greatness is measured by status, achievement, wealth, power, or some other source of prestige and honor. Jesus turned the tables on this thinking by setting a little child in the midst of them and saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” But what does this mean? To be converted and become as a little child is to be brought to repentant faith which rests its entire confidence of salvation in Christ. Dependence, reliance, and trust in Christ alone. Denying one’s self, contrition, and repentance, and faith in the Gospel as the gift of salvation in Christ—this is the mark of true greatness. Greatness comes from God and is measured in terms of His gift of salvation to us that we have in no way earned. The greatest offense would be to deny these truths and cause someone to turn away from Christ and rely again upon themselves. What does this have to do with the ministry of Angels? The Angels of God serve the Lord Jesus. Their singular focus is Christ and His salvation for us who are the objects of our Lord’s love. This is what motivates the angels in all that they do for us: “In heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven” Jesus is the Father’s face which the Angels behold, and their work is to protect us and keep us in this faith.