

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity  
August 31 through September 7, 2025*

**Catechesis Notes for Week — The Third and Fourth Commandments — “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy”** (Third Commandment) is more accurately translated, “You shall sanctify the day of rest.” The Third Commandment is not mainly about “a day” but more importantly about the Word of God. The seven-day week of creation teaches us that there is a rhythm to our lives. We work, but we also require rest. But Christians began worshiping on Sunday (the first day of the week) instead of Saturday (the Old Testament Sabbath day of rest) because they properly understood that the Sabbath Day (or Rest Day) was chiefly about Jesus and His Word of life. Jesus is the source of Sabbath rest and He gives that rest to us through the Word of the Gospel that we receive by preaching, teaching, and the Sacraments. To highlight this important understanding, Christians began to worship on Sunday—the day of our Lord’s resurrection from the dead. On Sunday, the first Easter, Jesus spoke a Word that gave a “rest” that was far greater than the mere cessation of work. He gave the “rest” of sins forgiven through the Word of absolution: “Peace be with you.” That is why the explanation from the Catechism states that we are “not to despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” The Third Commandment calls us to “sanctify” the day of rest (whatever that day might be) by hearing the Word of God through which we are renewed in repentance and faith in Christ.

Under the Fourth Commandment — **“Honor your father and your mother”** — we are taught to believe that God stands behind our fathers, mothers, and other authorities and works through them. We are to honor the authorities, not because they deserve it but because of the commandment of God and the office that He has given them. Parents and civil authorities are also to remember the awesome responsibilities they have been given by God lest they abuse the authority they have received.

**This week’s Bible Stories** highlight the Third and Fourth Commandments. In **The Boy Jesus in the Temple**, Jesus, at Twelve years of age, honors His father and mother by beginning to take on the responsibilities of a man in hearing the preaching and teaching of God’s Word in the Temple. **Mary Sits at Jesus’ Feet** in the second story of the week “gladly hearing Jesus’ Word” as that which is the most important thing for her life and salvation. Martha was not engaged in sinful behavior, but she, like us, allowed the other priorities of life to usurp “the one thing needful”—Jesus’ Word. In the tragic story of **The Rebellion of Absalom**, we see the devastating consequences and judgment of God against a son who despised his father. “It did not go well with Absalom, nor did he enjoy long life upon the earth.” In the last story of the week, **Ruth & Her Kinsman Redeemer**, we see the power and result of the Word of the Gospel that had been received by the Moabite woman, Ruth. Though she was not a Jew, she heard the Word of the Gospel through the Israelite family that she had married into. This “hearing of God’s Word” resulted not only in a love and devotion to the Lord but also in honor and faithfulness toward her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Finally, **this week’s Bible Verse** describes the ordinary life of prayer to which we are called. We receive the Word of God in Catechism, Scripture, and hymnody that we might “teach it to our children, talk about it when we sit in our houses, when we walk by the way, and when we lie down and rise up.” By the Word of God, received and believed, EVERY day is sanctified, and we learn to walk by faith in Christ with honor and respect toward all those in authority over us.

**Theme: God Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner!**

## Invocation

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

## Apostles’ Creed

### Verse: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

These words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

### Psalm 50:7-23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on Psalm 50:** Lord, have mercy upon us and spare us from eternal condemnation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147
Evening	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146

## Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 11: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-14	
Monday	Labor Day—Do Not Worry about Your Life—Matt. 6:24-34	Proverbs 3:27-35
Tuesday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:(40) 41-52	Isaiah 55:1-11
Wednesday	Mary Sits at Jesus’ Feet—Luke 10:38-42	Deuteronomy 6:4-13
Thursday	The Rebellion of Absalom—2 Sam. 15:2-15 (15:16-18:5) 18:6-15 (16-32) 18:33-19:6	Romans 13:1-10
Friday	Ruth and Her Kinsman Redeemer—Ruth 1:1-19a (1:19b-3:18) 4:1-10 (11-22)	1 Peter 1:22-2:3
Saturday	Trinity 12: Deaf Shall Hear and the Blind See—Isaiah 29:17-24	Romans 10:9-17

## Catechism: Ten Commandments—Third and Fourth Commandments

What is the Third Commandment? <b>Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.	First Grade +
What is the Fourth Commandment? <b>Honor your father and your mother.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.	First Grade +

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

### Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, 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  
**Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work  
**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins  
**Wednesday:** For marriage and family  
**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper  
**Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed  
**Saturday:** For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

**Baptism:** Esther Rose Gierach, infant daughter of Kieth and Hannah Gierach.

**Baptismal anniversaries:** Charles Hartwig (8/31), Veronica Meyer, Noah DePue (9/1), Liam Daleiden (9/2), Susan Kaminski, Daniel Laubenstein (9/4), Faith Daleiden (9/6).

**Wedding anniversaries:** Brian and Melissa Brendel (9/4), Mark and Melody Ruhbusch (9/6).

**Newly Married:** Timothy Haga and Adelia Mahaffee joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday.

**Ordination and Installation:** James Bruss (9/6/2025) Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew in Eau Claire.

**The sick:** Chuck and Jan Finke recovering after an auto accident, Fred Theilacker (father of Fritz Theilacker) hospitalized with blood clots in his lungs, Melissa Brendel undergoing medical testing, Dorothy Behling recovering from an automobile accident.

**In cancer treatment:** Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Steven Jahnke, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

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

### Hymn of the Week

### “Oh, Blest the House”

862

### Looking forward to the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

September 14, 2025

Hymns: 862, 545, 589, 640, 583, 538

**Isaiah 29:17-24:** How can deaf hear? How can unbelievers believe? They cannot hear and they cannot believe unless the Lord opens their ears and hearts to faith by the miracle of His Word. This Old Testament reading corresponds to the Gospel for the day when Jesus heals the deaf mute. Isaiah foretells the ministry of the Gospel, “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”

**Romans 10:9-17:** “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” beautifully catechizes us on this week’s Gospel.

**Mark 7:31-37:** What a beautiful picture of how we all became Christians, followers of Jesus! The deaf mute could not hear, and he could not speak. He had no ability of his own to receive the Word of God that was necessary for him to come to faith. And because he had no faith, he could not speak or confess his faith. Jesus took the man aside from the multitude, put His fingers in his ears, spat and touched his tongue, sighed in the Spirit as He looked up to His Father in heaven, and said to the man, “Ephphatha!” “Be opened!” By Jesus’ Word he who could not hear and received the Word his ears and heart were opened to faith, and out of the faith of His heart his tongue that was in bondage was loosed and he spoke, confessing his faith and praising His Jesus. Word and water came together in this miracle in the touch of Jesus voice and the spittle from His mouth. How very like Baptism this is. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Out of the heart of faith the tongue is loosed, and we speak, confessing our faith and praising our God. This intimate miracle of healing illustrates our utter helplessness and our total dependence upon Christ for the miracle of faith and the gift of confessing our Savior.