

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 14 through September 21, 2025

Catechesis Notes for Week — The Seventh and Eighth Commandments—In the Seventh Commandment, “**You shall not steal,**” God wishes to protect His gift of property. Christians have a unique perspective on temporal goods. We are given our property that we might use it for the benefit of others. The Catechism declares that we are to help our neighbor “to improve and protect his possessions and income.” This is a concrete expression of love. In the Eighth Commandment, “**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor,**” God wishes to protect the gift of a good name and reputation. We are not only called to speak the truth in love to our neighbor and for our neighbor’s benefit, but we are also called to use our tongue to cover the sin and shame of others. We are called to “defend [our neighbor], speak well of him, and explain everything [about him] in the kindest way.” The Bible stories for the week highlight these two commandments. When **Abram gave Lot the choice of the land**, he demonstrated his faith in God’s promise to care for him according to the Gospel, and he lived in generous love toward his nephew Lot. When **Zacchaeus** was brought to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus, the selfishness of his heart was transformed, and he restored all that he had stolen from others by repaying fourfold what he had taken. In the story of Zacchaeus, we see the power of the Gospel of God’s generous love in Christ transforming a sinner’s heart. When Jesus instructs us to “**Bless those who curse us,**” He is articulating how faith in His undeserved forgiveness and love manifests itself in the way we speak about and pray for others. Mercy and undeserved lovingkindness seasons our speech. Ultimately, the Law of Love is only fulfilled in Jesus. **Jesus prays for His enemies** who had hated Him and nailed Him to the cross. Since Jesus’ speech was so seasoned with the sweet Gospel of God’s undeserved lovingkindness, how much more should we put the best construction on our neighbor’s actions and speak well of those who have sinned against us. **This week’s verse** is a portion of Jesus’ catechesis on the Eighth Commandment in which He instructs us that our speech should be governed by the truth of God’s Word; anything other than this is of the devil: “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

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: While We Were Yet Sinners, Christ Died for Us!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 5:37

Let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No.”

For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Psalms 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 32: O Lord, teach me never to be afraid of confessing my sin that I may know the joy of salvation and the renewal of life that comes through Your forgiveness and mercy alone, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35
Evening	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 13: The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37	
Monday	Holy Cross Day: John 12:20-33	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Tuesday	Abram Gives Lot the Choice of the Land—Gen. 13:1-12 (13-18)	Philippians 2:1-4
Wednesday	Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’s House—Luke 19:1-10	Ephesians 4:25-32
Thursday	Bless Those Who Curse—Matthew 5:33-45	Romans 13:8-10
Friday	Jesus Prays for His Enemies—Luke 23:33-43	1 Thessalonians 5:14-24
Saturday	Trinity 14: Proverbs 4:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Seventh and Eighth Commandments

What is the Seventh Commandment? You shall not steal.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.	First Grade +

<i>What is the Eighth Commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain what You have promised, make us love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Holy Cross Day

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, 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...”

Baptismal anniversaries: Bob Rothe, Christine Sawatzki, Pete Greschner (9/14), Jeanne Scholz, Janeen Hartwig (9/15), Daniel Haga (9/16), Jacob Rank (9/17), Stan Heine Jr, Kelsey DePue (9/18), Andrew Gehlbach (9/20).
Wedding anniversaries: Mark and Cheryl Gretzinger (9/12), Lee and Cathie Weber (9/16), Jason and Cathy Petersen (9/17).
Military: Katelyn Wittenburg (granddaughter of George & Sue Kaminski)—stationed in Kuwait with the Army National Guard; Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army National Guard); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army).
The sick: Chuck and Jan Finke recovering after an auto accident; Dorothee Behling hospitalized and recovering after auto accident; Melissa Brendel and Loretta Lampen undergoing medical testing.
In cancer treatment: Ivy Kunkel (daughter-in-law to Keith and Cindy Kunkel), Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Steven Jahnke, Diane Bulawa, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Fred Theilacker

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

Hymn of the Week

“Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” (Stanzas 1-4)

812

Looking forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 21, 2025

Hymns: 812, 790, 430, 639, 549, 526

Proverbs 4:10-23: The path of life is to abide in the life-giving Word of God, the instruction of the Holy Scriptures.

Galatians 5:16-24: When the Bible talks about “walking,” it is talking about faith in Christ and the life of faith. To “walk in the Spirit” is to continue in the life of repentant faith in Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. Walking in the Spirit means that we are led by the Holy Spirit through the divine Word to flee continually from self to Christ. To “walk in the flesh” is to continue to indulge the appetites of the Old Adam, without contrition and repentance. Faith and unbelief are in constant warfare. It is why Paul says, “the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” From the flesh flows all manner of evil. From a life lived by faith in the Gospel, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Luke 17:11-19: Universal grace is the doctrine that God loves the entire world in Christ and not just a selected few. In the account of the cleansing of the ten lepers, we see Jesus cleansing not just the one Samaritan who returned to Him in faith and thanksgiving, but all ten. In the same way we learn that Christ died for all sinners, even though many will reject His gift in impenitence and unbelief. The Old Testament Law included provisions for lepers to be brought back into the community of faith if they were cleansed of their disease. When Jesus told the cleansed lepers to show themselves to the priests as a testimony to them in accordance with the Law, He wanted to demonstrate that the One who is the source of cleansing had come, and that He had not come to set aside the Law, but to fulfill it. Ironically, it was the Samaritan that recognized the true nature of Jesus’ miracle. Jesus hadn’t merely healed him of a physical disease; Jesus was the source of all salvation as the One who fulfilled the Law for all people. Thanksgiving is the fruit of repentant faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.