

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 21 through September 28, 2025

Catechesis Notes for Week — The Ninth and Tenth Commandments—This week's Bible Passage is the Lord's call to: **"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."** As we meditate upon the Ninth and Tenth Commandments this week, which forbid covetousness (the idolatrous desire of the heart), we are called to **DESIRE** and **YEARN** for Christ and His righteousness above all things. Jesus' words are a call to faith in Him. It is as if He were saying, "I am your God and Savior! I have taken your sin and punishment upon Myself. I have died for you upon the cross. My blood cleanses you from all sin. I forgive you all your sin on account of My death for you. My righteousness covers you. I am the source of your life and salvation. If you have Me by faith, then you will have all things that you need because I have redeemed and saved you and I will never abandon you. All that you need I will surely give you." "Therefore," as Jesus' words go on to say, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." The sin of covetousness arises out of the rebellious, unbelieving heart that does not believe that Jesus and His righteousness are sufficient to supply us with all that we need and that He, Himself, is the greatest joy and delight of our hearts. Therefore, covetousness is not merely the desiring of wrong things or good things that we shouldn't have, but more importantly, it is the belief that Christ is not enough for us. This week's Bible Stories highlight the themes of covetousness from the Ninth and Tenth Commandments. Covetousness is always selfish and mean-spirited. We see the devastating results of this idolatrous desire in **Ahab who Covets Naboth's Vineyard**. The **Fall of Man into Sin** began with the covetous desire planted in our first parents by the Serpent who accused God of not loving us and of withholding good gifts from us. When Jesus calls us to confess Him and **"Take Up Our Cross and Follow Him,"** He is calling us to a life of repentance in which the covetous desires of the Old Adam are continually put to death through contrition, confession, and absolution, along with a life of prayer that clings to Christ and His grace for help. **The Rich Young Ruler** turns away from the only one who is really good, God's only Son, in favor of clinging to the wealth and works of his own hands that can never really satisfy. The only thing any of us really lack is Christ and His righteousness, but the wonder of the Gospel is that the One whom we lack—the only Good One—actually gives Himself to us as a free gift of His grace that we might live in Him.

Theme: Jesus Is the Way of Life!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Matthew 6:33-34

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Psalm 119:9-16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 119: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56
Evening	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 14: The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19	
Monday	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist—Matthew 9:9-13	Ephesians 4:7-16
Tuesday	Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard—1 Kings 21:1-16	James 4:1-10
Wednesday	The Fall of Man into Sin—Genesis 3:1-8	Romans 7:7-13
Thursday	Confess Christ, Take Up Your Cross, Follow Him—Mt. 10:32-39	Hebrews 13:1-6
Friday	Rich Young Ruler—Mark 10:17-31	Philippians 3:7-12
Saturday	St. Michael: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3	Revelation 12:7-12

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment?	Preschool +
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	

<i>What does this mean?</i> 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 +
<i>What is the Tenth Commandment?</i> 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 +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...” (LSB p. 294)

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Tabitha Daleiden, Katie Banasik (9/21), Samantha Bender, Ken Dumpke, Penelope Gehlbach, Aubrey Hoffmann, Randy Kirk, Angela Volquardsen (9/22), Lucas Dubnicka, Ethan Krueger (9/24), Richard Gallagher, Timothy Frerking, Sherry Prowatzke (9/25), Ben Banasik, August Christopherson (9/26), Matthew Hendrickson (9/27).

Wedding anniversaries: Ben and Betsy Banasik (9/22).

The sick: Carol David hospitalized; Melissa Brendel recovering from surgery; Chuck and Jan Finke, Dorothee Behling, recovering after auto accidents; Jon Bruss, recovering after a knee injury due to a fall; Loretta Lampen undergoing medical testing.

In cancer treatment: Ivy 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

“In Thee Is Gladness” (Stanzas 1-2)

818

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

September 28, 2025

Hymns: 818, 522, 941, 605, 521, 725, 621, 670

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 oneself, 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.