

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels
September 28 through October 5, 2025*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Review of the Commandments and the Close of the Commandments — The first commandment is behind all the commandments, and all the commandments are interconnected in the demand to love God above all things. The threat of the Law to punish anyone who turns away from God is visited upon Jesus in His death upon the cross. He was punished for the sin of the fathers in fulfillment of the law. Therefore, there is grace and mercy for us sinners, because Jesus “loved and trusted in God and gladly did what God demanded.” He did this even to the point of suffering the punishment that we sinners deserved. Death and condemnation is the result of turning away from God, the source of all life. The tablets of the Law that were hurled at the Jews from Mount Sinai show how all our righteousness is crushed under the scrutiny of God’s commandments. This is necessary. If we do not feel the crushing blow of the Law, we cannot receive the righteousness of Christ. Christ bore the crushing blow of the Law’s condemnation in His death. He willingly took our place, like a scapegoat, and suffered all that we by our sins deserved. Why did He do this? His love and desire to save us and give us life is at the heart of all that He does for us, even when the Law is proclaimed that crushes our self-righteousness and pride. **This week’s Bible verse** teaches us that all the commandments are joined together so that it is impossible to break only one commandment and keep the rest. The “fear, love, and trust” demanded in the first commandment is the foundation for all the commandments. Salvation from sin is a free gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We receive this free gift by faith alone. Any attempts to attain righteousness by the Law are a denial of Christ’s sacrifice for us under the Law’s condemnation.

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: 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: James 2:10

Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Psalms 91 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 91: Lord Jesus, You are the Author and Finisher of faith, grant us the true and saving faith, and preserve us in the same against all temptations to doubt and unbelief. Blot out our iniquities by Your blood; cover our sins with Your righteousness, let Your angels be a fenced wall around us against all our enemies, and evermore teach us to know the secret of Your Father’s will, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73
Evening	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	St. Michael and All Angels: Matthew 18:1-11	
Monday	God’s Law Threatens and Accuses—Ex. 20:1-6, 18-21; 31:18	Hebrews 12:18-24
Tuesday	The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-14	Hebrews 3:1-19
Wednesday	God’s Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Ex. 32:15-35	Romans 3:10-26
Thursday	Jesus Takes the Place of the Guilty—Luke 23:13-25	Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11
Friday	Mission Observance: Luke 24:44-53	Romans 10:11-17
Saturday	Trinity 16: 1 Kings 17:17-24	Ephesians 3:13-21

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Review and The Close of the Commandments

What are the Ten Commandments? You shall have no other gods...etc.	Preschool +
What does God say about all these commandments?	First Grade +
He says: “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20:5-6]	

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments.

Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them.

But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments.

Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Preschool +

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

Collect for The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for Mission Observance

Almighty God, in Your kindness You cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may rejoice in the gift of Your unending love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: Donna Aufdemberge, Breanna Hertzberg (9/28), George Kaminski, Christine Dubnicka (9/29), Melissa Brendel (9/30), Evan Hertzberg, Jeffrey Meehan (10/1), Doreen Corso (10/2), Pat Rothe, Benjamin Volquardsen (10/3)

Wedding anniversaries: Edward and Michele Ratzlaff (9/28), Patrick and Kate Handlos, Kevin and Sherry Larson, John and Pamela Lehman (9/29), Don and Rosanne Fell (9/30), David and Anna Steinhilb (10/4).

The sick: Melissa Brendel recovering from surgery; Carol David in rehab; Chuck and Jan Finke, Dorothee Behling, and Jon Bruss recovering from accidents.

In cancer treatment: Loretta Lampen (mother of Karen Frerking), recently diagnosed with stage four cancer, Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Fred Theilacker.

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

Hymn of the Week

“I Walk in Danger All the Way”

716

Looking forward to The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 5, 2025

Hymns: 716, 758, 552, 750, 793, 742

I Kings 17:17-24: The account of Elijah’s ministry to the widow of Zarephath teaches us much about our earthly sojourn as Christians. On the one hand, the Lord is our salvation and His Word comforts and sustains us throughout our earthly pilgrimage. On the other hand, our union with Christ’s death and resurrection means that we will die and then be raised to new life in the resurrection. This is our ultimate hope and comfort. The raising of the widow’s son in the Old Testament points us to its fulfillment in Jesus’ ministry of resurrection. On the last day, we will be restored to eternal communion with Christ and those we love who have died in the faith.

Ephesians 3:13-21: Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, that we might know and comprehend the riches and depth of His love.

Luke 7:11-17: Jesus is the resurrection and the life, but the life He gives is not merely the resuscitation of a dead individual, but the restoration of life with God and one another in a wonderful fellowship with the Triune God of love in whose image we were created. Loneliness and separation from loved ones are what sin and its resulting death brings into our lives. When Jesus raised the widow of Nain’s son, he arrested the funeral procession, touched the open coffin, and spoke the word that raised the dead. It is a wonderful picture of what Jesus’ death, resurrection, and preaching accomplishes. He has touched our sin and death and made it His own. He took away the cause of death when He atoned for the sin which separated us from God and one another. And in His resurrection, He proclaims a Word of forgiveness and new life which raises the dead and restores our fellowship with God and one another. That Jesus presented the raised son to his mother is a wonderful picture of the blessed reunion which is yet to come. From this miracle the people rightly confessed, “A great prophet has risen up among us” and “God has visited His people.”