

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23 through August 30, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Take Up the Catechism Daily—As we begin another school year, we have the opportunity to renew our meditation upon God's Word through the faithful contemplation of the Small Catechism. Beginning this week, the Congregation at Prayer will walk us sequentially through the Small Catechism, from the Ten Commandments through the Table of Duties. Daily recitation of the small sections of the Catechism at home throughout the next nine months will enable a person to learn the Catechism by heart rather easily. Learning the Catechism by heart helps us to interpret and understand Scripture, sermons, and liturgy. It also shapes the way in which we think about our lives and live in our vocation, so that we live faithfully as Christians.

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 Christ, the Son of the Living God!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 90:1-2

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Psalm 138 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 138: I will praise You with my whole heart, O Lord, for when I hear the words of Your mouth, I am filled with the joy of Your salvation. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, revive me, stretch out Your hand and save me for Your mercy endures forever and You will not forsake those who are the work of Your hands; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	You Are the Christ, the Son of Living God—Matthew 16:13-20	
Monday	St. Bartholomew, Apostle—John 1:43-51	2 Corinthians 4:7-10
Tuesday	Moses Receives the Law upon Tablets of Stone—Exodus 24:1-18	Hebrews 1:1-14
Wednesday	The Ark of the Covenant—Exodus 25:1-22	Hebrews 2:1-9
Thursday	The Priestly Garments—Exodus 28:1-43	Hebrews 2:10-18
Friday	The Ransom Money—Exodus 30:11-16	Hebrews 3:1-6
Saturday	Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist—Mark 6:14-29	Revelation 6:9-11

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—First and Second Commandments

What is the First Commandment? You shall have no other gods.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.	First Grade +
What is the Second Commandment? You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. Bartholomew

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, chose Bartholomew to be an apostle to preach the blessed Gospel. Grant that Your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through Jesus 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...”

Lutheran Schools: Peace Lutheran Academy beginning a new academic year.

Baptismal anniversaries: Lance Carus, Jack Christopherson (8/25); Sarah Bender (8/26); June Brueck (8/27); Mike Ferguson (8/28); Charlie Dhein (8/29).

Wedding Anniversaries: Mark and Pam Thoni (8/23); Tom and Nancy Landry (8/24); Rev. Gary and Susan Gehlbach, Kevin and Rachel Ruehle (8/29).

The sick: Janice Bira (Dave Aumann’s sister); Bruce Gutknecht (Julie Goltermann’s uncle) undergoing heart valve replacement surgery on Wednesday; John Lehman and Jodi Winn in rehab.

In cancer treatment: Robin Ruhbusch (sister-in-law to Mark and Melody Ruhbusch) whose cancer has metastasized; Art Klausmeier (Mark Goltermann’s cousin) who has exhausted treatment options; Barbara Galis (Nick Galis’ grandmother) undergoing chemotherapy; Bob Rothe, Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those in Hospice Care: Tempy McCombe (friend of the Duesslers)

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Laura DeBoth (long-time member of Peace’s sewing circle).

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

Hymn of the Week

“With the Lord Begin Your Task” (stanzas 1-3)

869

Looking forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)

August 30, 2026

Hymns: 724, 531, 668, 756, 631, 724

Jeremiah 15:15-21: The prophet Jeremiah speaks Messianically, which means that many of his words belong in the mouth of our Savior: “Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name.” It is precisely because Jesus lived by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God that He was enabled to be faithful unto death. He lived explicitly, completely, and wholly from what the Father had given Him to do. He commended Himself to God the Father. He bore the stigma and persecution of many and commended His persecutors to the Father while He carried out the Father’s will for Him to suffer for the redemption of us all. In Jesus we find the incarnation of God’s love that is manifested most clearly in His suffering and death upon the cross.

Romans 12:9-21: The Apostle Paul teaches us what the life of self-denial and taking up the cross looks like: it is a life that is lived in selfless mercy and undeserved love toward others. It abhors evil. It clings to what is good. It delights in forgiving others and bearing affliction because that is what Christ has done for us.

Matthew 16:21-28: The man who made the faithful confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is also the same man who followed up his confession of faith with a fervent objection to Jesus’ prediction that He must go to the cross and suffer. The cross and suffering of Christ is the center of the true confession that Peter had previously made and yet, he says, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” The example of Peter’s schizophrenic confession of faith teaches us an important lesson about ourselves as Christians. The Christian is both a believer and an unbeliever simultaneously. Our Old Adam of unbelief and rebellion against God is always fighting against the New Man of faith in Christ. These two conflicting natures are at war with each other. This is central to understanding what it means “to deny ourselves, and take up our cross, and follow Him.” Peter’s Old Adam, like the Old Adam in all of us, could not be reformed, he had to die! That’s why Jesus speaks to Peter in the way that He does: “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense (or stumbling block) to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” The true confession of faith always turns away from the sinful, self-centered self with its flawed and self-serving human reason and clings to the selfless love of God in Christ alone, which moved Him to lay down His life for us.