

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30 through September 6, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Christ Meets Us to Minister to Our Every Need — *Why do we come to Divine Service? Answer: Because Jesus meets us in the Divine Service and ministers to our every need with His Word and Sacrament! We should not think of worship as our doing something for God, but rather as Christ serving us. True worship is faith that receives Christ's Word, confesses sin, and trusts His gracious promises for life and salvation. This is why the psalmist says, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells." True rest, or Sabbath, comes not by the observance of a particular day for worship, but by the Word of God that calls us to repentance and that bestows upon us the grace of God in Christ. No wonder, then, that the explanation to the Third Commandment says that we are not to "despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."*

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 said, "Take Up Your Cross Daily and Follow Me."

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 1:16a

**I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.**

Psalm 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 26: *Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. Cleanse me from all my sins and a bad conscience by Your absolution. Strengthen my faith toward You and my love for all with Your holy body and precious blood. Preserve and keep me from sin and the assaults of Satan by Your life-giving Word, for You alone are my God and Savior and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Must Suffer, Die, and Rise the Third Day—Matthew 16:21-28	
Monday	The Sabbath Law—Exodus 31:12-18	Hebrews 3:7-19
Tuesday	The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-14	Hebrews 4:1-10
Wednesday	God's Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Exodus 32:15-35	Hebrews 4:11-16
Thursday	Lord Renews His Covenant with Israel—Ex. 33:1-3 (4-5); 34:1-10, 27-35	Hebrews 5:1-11
Friday	Moses Sets Up the Tabernacle—Exodus 40:1-3, 16-38	Hebrews 5:12-14
Saturday	A Watchman over the House of Israel—Ezekiel 33:7-9	Romans 13:1-10

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—Third and Fourth Commandments

<i>What is the Third Commandment?</i> Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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 +
<i>What is the Fourth Commandment?</i> Honor your father and your mother.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same 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...”

Baptismal anniversaries: Lindsey Kenyon (8/30); Esther Gierach (8/31); Noah DePue, Veronica Meyer (9/1); Liam Daleiden (9/2); Sue Kaminski, Daniel Laubenstein (9/4).

Wedding anniversaries: Timothy and Adelia Haga (8/30); Brian and Melissa Brendel (9/4).

The sick: Wayne Petersen (Jason Petersen’s uncle) hospitalized and in failing health; Janice Bira (Dave Aumann’s sister); John Lehman and Jodi Winn in rehab.

In cancer treatment: 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: Robin Ruhbusch (sister-in-law to Mark and Melody Ruhbusch).

Those who mourn: Christina Portman, whose father died suddenly. The family and friends of Tempy McCombe (friend of the Duesslers)

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

Hymn of the Week

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

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Looking forward to the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18)

September 6, 2026

Hymns: 614, 820, 616, 620, 866, 865

Ezekiel 33:7-9: The Word of the Lord came to the prophet, called “the son of man” and instructed him to warn the impenitent sinner in order to call him to repentance. If the prophet (or any minister of the Word) fails to warn the impenitent of his sin, he brings down the sinner’s guilt upon himself. Jesus is called the Son of Man because He was both the faithful prophet in speaking the Lord’s Word and also the One who took the guilt of all sinners upon Himself.

Romans 13:1-10: St. Paul admonishes Christians to submit to the governing authorities because, even though they may not be Christian, they are still in an office established by God for the maintenance of justice in society and for the protection of law-abiding citizens. This admonishment becomes even more poignant when one realizes that it was written at a time in which governmental hostility toward the Church was growing under Roman persecution. Paul is really admonishing us to live by faith in the Lord’s good and gracious providence, especially when we have governments which may be less than our ideal ruler. Our faith in Christ teaches us to honor and pray for the governing authorities and to live in Christ’s love toward all our fellow men, especially unbelievers, because “love is the fulfillment of the Law” and such love flows from faith in Christ who truly fulfilled the Law by laying down His life for us under the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. Jesus submitted Himself to the governing authorities, even though they hated Him and sentenced Him to death, because He trusted the Father to do His good will even through the hands of evil rulers. Out of His obedient submission unto death He fulfilled the Law and won our salvation.

Matthew 18:1-20: Jesus prefaces His comments concerning dealing with a sinning brother by telling the parable of the Lost Sheep and by warning His disciples causing offense to “one of His little ones.” Who are Jesus’ little ones? They are not only the young in age, they are, rather, all the baptized children of God. In fact, no one can become a Christian “unless,” in Jesus’ words, “they are converted and become as little children.” “Becoming as a little child” does not draw attention to the virtue of small children, but rather draws attention to the new life of faith which is a gift of God and how that life is fragile and must continue to be nurtured by the Gospel in order to be sustained against the enemies of faith. This understanding must be brought to bear in “dealing with a sinning brother.” A “confrontation” with a sinning brother (which is a brother who is living in impenitence) is never to be done to get one’s pound of flesh, to seek revenge, or to punish the brother. It is always to be done in love and with the motivation to win the brother back to the faith from which he departed through impenitence. Any other motivation threatens to put “a stumbling block” in the path of that brother and cause him to stumble.