

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026, through September 27, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Covetousness and Contentment—The Ninth and Tenth Commandments both speak of covetousness. Covetousness is the desire of our hearts that insists upon having those things that God has not given to us. Many of the things that we might desire are very good things indeed. “Food, drink, clothing, shoes ... a devout husband or wife, devout children,” etc. are all good things and good gifts from God. Sometimes, however, through our own sin or through the Lord’s gracious providence we are not allowed to have certain good things that we might otherwise desire and that might make life easier. Desires for good things become covetous and idolatrous whenever we won’t take no for an answer, whenever we insist that we must have this or that we must have that in order to be happy and content. At the center of the Christian faith, which trusts Christ for salvation, is learning to be satisfied with Him—with His love, with His forgiveness, with His Word, with everything that He is as our Savior and God. True contentment actually comes not from getting what we want and what we believe we must have, but from the faith that rests in Christ and is content with Him especially under the cross of suffering and affliction. When we have Christ and His love as our one thing needful, then His Word transforms our lives turning us outside of ourselves and our own desires to the sacrifices of love for others.

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: We Are Saved by Grace Alone!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 12:15

Take heed and beware of covetousness,
for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Psalm 27:1-9 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 27: O Lord Jesus, You are my light and my salvation, and You are the strength of my life. Therefore grant me to fear no one. Give me a hunger and thirst for Your Word, that I may delight to dwell in Your house all the days of my life and to behold the beauty of Your love for me and for all sinners. Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may wait upon You and be of good courage; 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	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109
Evening	94	97	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard—Matthew 20:1-16	
Monday	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist—Matthew 9:9-13	Ephesians 4:7-16
Tuesday	The Priestly Blessing—Numbers 6:22-27	Hebrews 9:23-28
Wednesday	The Second Passover—Numbers 9:1-14	Hebrews 10:1-10
Thursday	A Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night—Num. 9:15-23	Hebrews 10:11-18
Friday	Israel Departs from Sinai—Numbers 10:11-14a, 29-36	Hebrews 10:19-25
Saturday	The Soul Who Sins Shall Die—Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Phil. 2:1-18

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Preschool +
What does this mean? 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 +
What is the Tenth Commandment? 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 +
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Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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...”

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: *Andrew Gehlbach (9/20), Katie Banasik, Tabitha Daleiden (9/21); Samantha Bender, Ken Dumke, Penelope Gehlbach, Aubrey Hoffmann, Randy Kirk, Angela Volquardsen (9/22); Lucas Dubnicka, Anna Hahn, Ethan Krueger (9/24); Timothy Frerking, Richard Gallagher, Sherry Prowatzke (9/25); Ben Banasik, August Christopherson (9/26).*

Wedding anniversaries: *Grace and William Palmer (9/20); Ben and Katie Banasik (9/22).*

The sick: *Doris Sidwell (Donna Aufdenberge's sister) awaiting treatment for heart disease; Ted Aufdenberge (Tom Aufdenberge's father), hospitalized in Iowa City; Annette Quill (friend of Sharon Murphy) recently moved to memory care; Rueben Roe recovering from knee-replacement surgery; John Lehman and Jodi Winn in rehab.*

In cancer treatment: *Terry O'Neill undergoing surgery for cancer on September 30; Heide Schaff and Ron Schaefer recovering from surgery; 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.*

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

Hymn of the Week

“Evening and Morning” (Stanzas 1-3)

726

Looking forward to the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21A)

September 27, 2026

Hymns: 512, 655, 538, 543, 621, 428

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32: *The prophet Ezekiel is instructed by the Lord that impenitence will surely be the source of condemnation, but that the one who repents of his sin and turns from it will live. “For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, “says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”*

Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13 14-18): *Paul encourages the Philippian congregation to allow the consolation that they have received from Christ to govern their lives as they live with one another: “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit ... Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32): *Rejection of Jesus often comes from a refusal to allow Him to be one's God and Savior. The Chief Priests and Elders of the people confronted Jesus, challenging His authority, precisely because if they accepted His authority it would mean that they were wrong about life, about God, about salvation, and about themselves. If what Jesus said was true, then they were not righteous at all. If what Jesus said was true, then they were sinners who needed to repent of their sin and trust in Him for salvation. If what Jesus said was true, then He is God and they are not! This is the root of all unbelief and rejection of Christ: the refusal to let go of oneself as his god and lord. Often it is the “tax collectors and harlots” who repent and believe the Gospel as the futility of their sinful lives leaves them empty. In short, those who come to believe that they are truly sinners before God are the most fit to receive Jesus and the salvation He came to bring.*