

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026, through October 4, 2026*

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 are 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 deserved by our sins. 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 death is the result of transgressing God's Law and that eternal life can only come through Jesus Christ who has suffered that death for us. 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 Came in Righteousness to Call to Repentance

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 6:23

**The wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Psalms 25:1-10 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 25: *Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152
Evening	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	By What Authority Do You Do These Things—Matthew 21:23-32	
Monday	The People of Israel Complain Against the Lord—Numbers 11:1-17	Hebrews 10:26-31
Tuesday	St. Michael and All Angels—Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3	Revelation 12:7-12
Wednesday	The Lord Feeds His Grumbling People with Quail—Numbers 11:18-35	Hebrews 10:32-39
Thursday	Aaron and Miriam Speak Against Moses—Numbers 12:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-7
Friday	Spies Are Sent into Canaan—Numbers 13:1-3 (4-16) 17-33	Hebrews 11:8-16
Saturday	The Vineyard of the Lord Destroyed—Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14

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

What are the Ten Commandments? **You shall have no other gods. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. 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 God say about all these commandments?</i> 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]	First Grade +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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. 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. 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:** Matthew Hendrickson (9/27), Brianna Hertzberg, Donna Aufdemberge (9/28); Sherry Larson, Christine Dubnicka, George Kaminski, (9/29); Matthew Berg, Melissa Brendel (9/30); Evan Hertzberg, Jeffrey Meehan (10/1); Doreen Corso (10/2); Patty Rothe, Benjamin Volquardsen (10/3).
- Wedding anniversaries:** Ed and Michele Ratzlaff (9/28); John and Pamela Lehman, Kevin and Sherry Larson, Pat and Kate Handlos (9/29).
- The sick:** Rueben Roe recovering from knee-replacement surgery; John Lehman continuing to recover from back surgery.
- 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), Barbara Galis (Nick Galis’ grandmother), 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.
- In palliative care:** Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece)

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

Hymn of the Week	“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” (Stanzas 1-4)	596
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Looking forward to the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22A)	October 4, 2026
Hymns: 568, 544, 429, 629, 644, 825 Isaiah 5:1-7: Isaiah prophesies concerning the rebellion of His people Israel by comparing them to a vineyard that brought forth wild grapes. He showed them His love and mercy and yet they repaid Him with rebellion. Because of their repeated rebellion, impenitence, and hardness of heart, the Lord’s judgment fell upon them. This theme is underscored by Jesus in this Sunday’s Gospel—the Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers. Philippians 3:4b-14: St. Paul sets aside his standing as a Jew, along with all the good works of the Law he ever performed and confessed that none of this compares to the righteousness of Christ that comes to us by faith alone for Jesus’ sake. Matthew 21:33-46: The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers is about the history of Israel’s rejection of the Lord’s call to repentance and faith. He had called them to be His own special people, yet they repeatedly turned from His Word, rejected His prophets who were sent to them, and finally rejected His Son. In the midst of Israel’s wholesale rejection of the Lord’s Word, there was always a remnant who heard the call to repentance and believed. This parable, therefore, stands as a warning for the Church today, lest we harden our hearts in impenitence and unbelief as so many have done in the past. Jesus is the Rock of our salvation and is the sure foundation of salvation for all who cling to Him in faith.	