

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity  
September 19<sup>th</sup>—September 25<sup>th</sup>



**Catechesis Notes for the Week:** We set off on a year-long journey through the Bible and the Catechism. Together we will learn, pray, and grow in the basics of the Bible on which our faith is founded. We begin with the First and Second Commandments.

The First Commandment teaches us that there is only one God: the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are to trust in Him above all things. We are to love Him and cling to Him. In the First Commandment, we find that the root of all sin is failing to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. We trust in worldly things for our survival and happiness. We forget that God is the source of all things. In this Commandment, God calls us to repentance—to confess our sin and trust in the love of Christ. He was obedient to the Father, even to the point of death. We run to Christ for forgiveness.

The Second Commandment teaches us to pray to God at all times and for all things. Is there trouble? Then we pray—not just that God would take the trouble away, but to teach us to trust even when the way is hard. We pray that God would give us the wisdom and ability to receive our daily crosses rejoicing and giving thanks. This Commandment shows us how hard it is for us to remain faithful in the midst of troubles and to pray this way. Instead of praying for God's will to be done, we insist that God should do what we want. Instead of praising Him in the midst of suffering, we curse Him in unbelief. This commandment calls us to repentance, and to see Christ, who prayed for us, even as He sweat drops of blood in the shadow of the cross. Yet, He did not turn from the suffering, but accepted the Father's will so that we might be saved. Because Jesus was obedient even to death, the Father hears our prayers. Therefore, in good times and bad, we can call on His name, pray, praise, and give thanks. And we do all this trusting He we give us just what we need.

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.

*This Week's Theme: Salvation comes only from the Triune God*

## *Invocation*

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

## *Apostles' Creed*

### *Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

### *Psalms 117 or the daily appointed Psalms listed below*

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, thanks and praise belong to You because You have given us Your Holy Word. Enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit to understand Your counsel of grace in Jesus Christ, to love Your Word, and to take delight in learning Your statutes and walking in Your Law. Bestow Your blessing and prosperity on the works of our hands in our Christian calling and all our conversation. Amen.

(Prayer From: *Reading the Psalms with Luther*, CPH 2007)

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	1,2	5	8,9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20
Evening	3	4,6	7	11, 12	13	16,17	21

## *Catechism: The Ten Commandments—1st and 2nd Commandments*

### *The First Commandment*

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

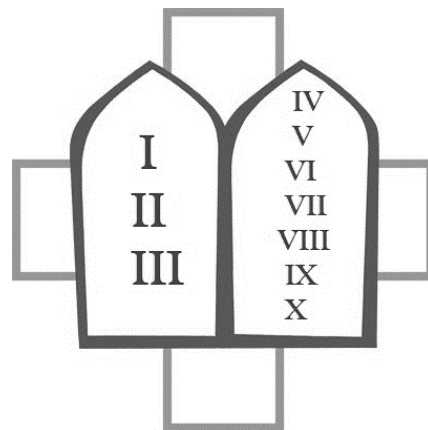
We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

### *The Second Commandment*

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*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.



## Readings for the Week

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family	Second Reading
Monday	<i>The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace—Daniel 2:1-28 (29-30)</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:1-23</i>
Tuesday	<i>Daniel and the Lions' Den—Daniel 6:1-23 (24)</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:1-22</i>
Wednesday	<i>Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Matthew 26:36-46</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:1-21</i>
Thursday	<i>Peter Denies His Lord—Matthew 26:69-75</i>	<i>Ephesians 4:1-24</i>
Friday	<i>The Rich Man and Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31</i>	<i>Ephesians 5:15-33</i>
Saturday	<i>(Read one of next Sunday's Readings)</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:1-24</i>

*Prayers: Collect of the Day (From the Service Bulletin)*

## Daily Themes for Prayer

<b>Sunday:</b>	For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments
<b>Monday:</b>	For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for our schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
<b>Tuesday:</b>	For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	For marriage and family; that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
<b>Thursday:</b>	For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers, for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
<b>Friday:</b>	For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and the dying.
<b>Saturday:</b>	For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

*In Our Prayers: those people listed in the bulletin*

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

*The Hymns of the Week: All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (LSB 791)

*Closing: Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Looking Forward to Trinity 17, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Hymns:** 766 *Our Father, Who From Heaven Above* (vv. 1, 2, 3, 9), 557 *Seek Where You May to Find a Way*, 642 *O Living Bread from Heaven*, 636 *Soul Adorn Yourself With Gladness*, 921 *On What Has Now Been Sown*

Readings: Proverbs 25:6–14, Ephesians 4:1–6, Luke 14:1–11

***Whoever Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted***

*“Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence”* (Prov. 25:6–14). Rather, take the lowest position at the table. Humble yourself before Him. For your place is not for you to take but for Him to give. Conduct yourself with all lowliness and gentleness, bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:1–6), that the King may give you glory in the presence of those at the table with you. *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”* (Luke 14:1–11). Is this not the way of Christ? He is the one who took the lowest place, who humbled Himself even to the point of death for us. He is now exalted to the highest place at the right hand of the Father that penitent believers may be exalted together with Him in the resurrection. To the humble at His Supper He says, *“Friend, move up higher,”* giving you His very body and blood for your forgiveness that you may ascend to take part in the great wedding feast which has no end.