

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020 through September 20, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Seventh and Eighth Commandments — By the Seventh Commandment, “You shall not steal,” God desires to protect His gifts of property, and that we help and serve our neighbor in the preservation of what belongs to him. Jesus fulfilled the Seventh Commandment by using all of His property in loving service to us, without counting the cost. By the Eighth Commandment, “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” God desires to protect His gifts of a good name and reputation, and that we help our neighbor preserve his honor. The Eighth Commandment forbids gossip, even though the words that we speak might be true. By gossip we do not cover our neighbor’s sins, but hurt and harm his reputation, which God has not given us to do. Jesus’ catechesis on the Eighth Commandment in the Sermon on the Mount teaches us that He is the fulfiller of this commandment. He blesses those who curse Him. He prays for those who persecute Him. By His Words He bestows upon us the Good Name of God, covering our sin with His mercy, that we might confess Him with our tongue in words of blessing and prayer on behalf of our neighbor. Jesus’ love in fulfillment of the Law is seen in the cross where He prays for His enemies and preaches the Gospel to the penitent thief. Christ fulfilled the Law for us in His loving sacrifice upon the cross. His love takes shape in us as we learn to live by faith in His forgiveness and mercy.

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.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse of the week: Matthew 11:28-29

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Psalm 103 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
Evening	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Seventh and Eighth Commandments

What is the Seventh Commandment? You shall not steal.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.	First Grade +
What is the Eighth Commandment? You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.	Second Grade +

Readings for the week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant—Matthew 18:21-35	2 Chron. 32:1-22	Col. 1:1-23
Monday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins – Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	2 Chron. 33:1-25	Col. 1:24-2:7
Tuesday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu – Leviticus 10:1-7	2 Chron. 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33	Col. 2:8-23
Wednesday	The Day of Atonement – Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34	2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25	Col. 3:1-25
Thursday	The Lord Commands a Census of Israel – Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 45-54	2 Chron. 36:1-23	Col. 4:1-18
Friday	The Levites are Called to Serve as Priests – Numbers 3:1-16, 39-51	Neh. 1:1-2:10	1 Tim. 1:1-20
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6	1 Tim. 2:1-15

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; 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

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray 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 schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray 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.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacraments of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray 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 dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray 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 at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Jack Teague, Joe Withers, Jacob Brewer, Orrion McJimsey, Debbie Drovwall, Joe Schober, Gordon Munson, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Our Shut-ins

Shirley Noah, Joe Withers

Employment

Peace and Comfort

Expectant Mothers

Mallory Crutcher, Katherine Grisham

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

College Students

Gabrielle Funke, Hailey Richardson, Alina Riebel, Jared Rohloff, Logan Rohloff, Ben Schielke, Esther Schielke, Jacob Schielke, Gina Visingardi

Seminarian

John Schober

Blessings

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

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

Hymn of Week

"The Law of God Is Good and Wise"

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