

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023 through September 24, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Fifth and Sixth Commandments — The Ten Commandments teach us what is good and what God desires to protect and uphold. The Fifth Commandment is given to protect the sanctity and gift of life. The Sixth Commandment is given to protect the sanctity and gift of marriage and sexuality. God made us male and female. The gift of sexuality is to be enjoyed within the sacred union of marriage in which God joins a man and a woman together as “one flesh.” This is a great mystery that reflects the image of the One God who is, nevertheless, three persons. The Bible Stories for the week all reflect the Fifth and Sixth Commandments. When a person’s faith is right, obedience to the commandments follows. When a person’s faith is wrong, sin against all the commandments is close at hand. Cain murders his brother because his faith was wrong. He was angry at God because he believed that God owed him because of his wonderful offering. He did not believe in God’s undeserved love and mercy. The Good Samaritan is a picture of the faith of Jesus. Though the Samaritan was viewed by the Jews as an enemy, still this Samaritan reached out in love to rescue the one who hated him. In the same way, our Lord, viewed by us sinners as our enemy, reached out in love and mercy to do all for our salvation. Joseph fled from the enticement of Potiphar’s wife precisely because he believed that to commit adultery with her was to reject God’s love and goodness in the gifts he had received in his life. Finally, Jesus shows Himself to be the man of faith in God’s Word when He is assaulted by the devil.

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: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Psalms 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	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91
Evening	77	79	81	83	86	87	90	93

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Fifth and Sixth Commandments

What is the Fifth Commandment? You shall not murder.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.	First Grade +
What is the Sixth Commandment? You shall not commit adultery.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	Second Grade +

Readings for the week of the Sixteenth 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. 36:1-23	Col. 4:1-18
Monday	Cain Murders His Brother Abel – Genesis 4:1-12	Neh. 1:1-2:10	1 Tim. 1:1-20
Tuesday	The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6	1 Tim. 2:1-15
Wednesday	Joseph Flees from Adultery – Genesis 39:1-21 (22-23)	Neh. 4:7-23	1 Tim. 3:1-16
Thursday	Jesus is Tempted by the Devil – Matthew 4:1-11	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16	1 Tim. 4:1-16
Friday	Review	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Tim. 5:1-16
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2

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

Collect for the week of the Sixteenth 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

Darin Mitchell, Gala Finnegan, Liz Lovato, Dan Bailey, Melissa Rodgers, Brian Willis, Heather Hattori, Connie Smith, Ella Littlefield, Tommy Rodhe, Mark Schroeder, Hudson Haney, Tim Finstad, Perrin King, Gordon Munson, Peg Munson, Darlene Biehle, Kenneth Biehle, Henry Ostermann, Dante Pellegrino, Collene Pellegrino, Bobbie Sherrod, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Angel Menendez, and the Martin, Courtney, Bradshaw, Herbel, and Menendez families

Our Shut-ins

Emily Snipes, Deena Strang, Coy Warfield

Employment

Peace and Comfort

Expectant Mothers

Sarah Schober

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

Seminarians

Justin Chester, Tanner Sawall, 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

"These Are the Holy Ten Commands"

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