

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of the Reformation

October 29-November 4, 2017

Catechetical Notes for the week: *The ninth and tenth commandments teach us that we have everything in Christ. Our desires are to be pure. God has promised to give us what is best for us on earth. So we trust God to care for us. We have not too much nor too little. We are content with what we have, realizing that we have far more than what we need. We give thanks to God for what we have and even thank God for what He's given to others. We help them keep and improve their life, possessions, workers, friends, spouse, children. We speak of them kindly so all will think highly of them. We are content because our home is in heaven. The ninth and tenth commandments show us that all sin stems from our hearts. We have been discontent, doubted God, trusted in ourselves to provide, and have harbored sins in our hearts. We've been jealous of our neighbor, critical of how he uses his gifts. We've justified our thoughts and behaviors by saying he doesn't deserve it and we do. Our covetous heart has spilled into sinful actions. And so we've forgotten heaven is our home. It calls us to repentance and faith in Christ who desired only the things of God. He willingly went to the cross so we might have all good things from God.*

Theme: God guards His Church forever by His Word

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

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

<i>What is the ninth commandment?</i> You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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.	2nd Grade+
<i>What is the tenth commandment?</i> 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.	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Bible Story</i> page
Monday	1 Kings 21:1-16	1 Th 1; Ro 1 (456)

Tuesday	Genesis 3:1-8	30
Wednesday	Matthew 10:32-39	(Nu 13-14) 124
Thursday	Mark 10:17-31	(Judges 7,8) 150
Friday	Psalm 23	367
Saturday	Isaiah 51:9-16; Colossians 1:9-14; Matthew 9:18-26	(1 Sam 1-2) 164

PRAYER

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

Example:

Repeat the 9th commandment

A teaching: Dear Father, in the 9th commandment You teach me to be content with all that You have given and to desire You above all things.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for blessing me with all that I have. You have not given too much or too little, but everything comes from Your boundless love in Christ.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I desired what You have given to others. I have not joyfully received Your gifts. My heart is not always pure.

A prayer: I ask You for help in keepings this commandment all my days, and help me to desire only You and receive with gladness Your love. Amen.

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Prayer for the Reformation

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your Faithful people: keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Holy Word; and bestow on Christ's Church militant Your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever.

Luther's Morning/Evening Prayer

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This document is adapted from Lutheran Catechesis: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation by Peter Bender, © 2011.