

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
The week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17-23, 2023*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** *The first commandment teaches us that the Holy Trinity is our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We fear Him because He is holy and we are not; yet He has made us His children so we stand in awe of Him desiring to be like Him. We love Him because He saved us. We trust in Him because He alone can rescue from every evil to body and soul. The first commandment shows us that we have committed idolatry against God. All sins are against this first commandment as we place our desires above God. We have feared, loved, and trusted in other gods both outwardly and inwardly. It leads us to repentance and faith in Christ, who alone reveals a loving, gracious, forgiving God. Through Him alone we know God. The second commandment teaches us to call upon the name of the Lord rightly. The name that saves us is Jesus. He reveals the Father. He shows the Spirit. We use Jesus' name rightly when we pray, praise, and give thanks to God through Jesus and when we call upon Him in physical or spiritual trouble. The second commandments shows us that we have misused God's name. We've failed to pray for help, failed to praise Him, failed to thank Him. We have used it recklessly throwing it out when shocked. We have turned to other names in time of help, whether it be ourselves or others, trusting in them rather than in Christ. We have simply neglected the proper worship of God. It leads us to repentance and faith in Christ, whose name alone delivers us from every evil.*

## ***Theme: Seek First the Kingdom of God***

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

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**HYMN:** What God Ordains Is Always Good

**BIBLE VERSE:** Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

<i>What is the first commandment?</i> You shall have no other gods.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.	1st Grade +
<i>What is the second commandment?</i> You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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.	2nd Grade +

<b>DAILY READING</b>		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Daniel 3:1-30	232
Tuesday	Daniel 6:1-23	241
Wednesday	Exodus 14:1-15:2	110
Thursday	Matthew 26:36-75	395
Friday	1 Kings 18:16-40	221
Saturday	1 Kings 17:17-24; Ephesians 3:13-21; Luke 7:11-17	(Mt 2:1-12) 287

## **PRAYER**

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

### **Example:**

Repeat the 1st (then the 2nd) commandment

Teaching: *Lord, in the first commandment, You teach me that You alone are God.*

Thanksgiving: *Lord, I thank You that You alone are my God and Lord.*

Confession: *O Lord, I confess and ask for grace that I have committed idolatry by fearing, loving, and trusting in other things.*

Prayer: *O Lord, I ask You to help me to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, we beseech You, let Your continual mercy cleanse and defend Your Church: and because she cannot continue in safety without Your help; preserve her evermore by Your goodness, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and 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.