

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24-30, 2023*

Catechetical Notes for the week: The third commandment teaches us that the Word of God is the one true holy thing in our lives because it alone reveals Jesus. Wherever the Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or meditated upon, then that person, day, and work are sanctified. It is the Word alone that makes us saints of God. We are to gladly hear and learn it, go to His Service with joy, and always have it on our lips. The third commandment shows us that we have despised God's Word, viewed devotions as secondary, and often wished we were somewhere else on Sunday. It calls us to repentance and to faith in Christ who is the Word. Even in His youth He gladly heard and discussed the Scriptures. At His cross and tomb He fulfilled all the Scriptures and so became for us our eternal Rest (Sabbath means rest). The fourth commandment teaches us to honor, respect, obey, serve, and, yes, even love and cherish those who are in authority over us. Authorities include: parents, pastors, and all governmental leaders. God desires to bless our bodies and souls through them. They are His representatives on earth, appointed by Him. To honor them is to honor God. So we thank God for them all. The fourth commandment shows us that we have despised those God has placed over us and wished for other authorities. We have not been quick to listen and obey, but have made them angry by our disobedience, thinking we know what is best. It leads us to repentance and faith in Christ. Although He was God, He submitted to His parents in all things. He did not rebel against the authorities though they plotted to kill Him. But He remained obedient to His Father's will unto death to make us children of God.

Theme: Life has overcome death.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN: The Will of God is Always Best

BIBLE VERSE: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

<i>What is the third commandment?</i> Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.	2nd Grade+
<i>What is the fourth commandment?</i> Honor your father and mother.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.	1st Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Luke 2:40-52	290
Tuesday	Luke 10:38-42	(2 Kg 22) 211
Wednesday	Luke 24:13-35	409
Thursday	Ruth 1:1-19; 4:1-10	158-162
Friday	1 Samuel 10:17-27	172
Saturday	Genesis 28:10-17; Ephesians 4:22-28; Matthew 9:1-8	(Gen 27:1-30) 68

PRAYER

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

Example:

Repeat the 3rd commandment

A teaching: Dear Father, in the 3rd commandment You teach me that Your Word alone reveals Jesus, my loving and gracious Savior, and gives me forgiveness in Him.

A thanksgiving: I thank you for giving me Your Holy Word daily for in that Word my Savior comes to forgive and sanctify me.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I despised Your Word by indifference, devaluing it, not pay attention to it, and living contrary to it.

A prayer: I ask You for help in keeping this commandment all my days, forgive me all my sins and sanctify me through Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us and make us continually to be given to all good works through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.