

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The week of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 8–14, 2023*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** *The seventh commandment teaches us that Christ is the greatest gift given by God. Without Him all earthly possessions would be meaningless. Everything is from our Father and is used to His glory. So we help our neighbor protect and improve what God has given him, while giving thanks for what He has given us. The seventh commandment shows us that we have been lazy, knowingly have done a poor job, and worked hard only when a teacher or boss is around. We have been greedy, working to get money rather than working for the good of others. We have wasted time, food, money by neglect and extravagant living, and given to the Lord a stingy offering from our leftovers. It calls us to repentance and faith in Christ, who gives us all He had on the cross and in the Sacraments so we might have mansions in heaven. The eighth commandment teaches us that we are sons of God, marked with the Triune God's Name in Holy Baptism. Our reputation and self worth is tied to who God is. So we always take words and actions in the kindest possible way. We defend those who cannot defend themselves and speak well of those not present. All is done to improve and build up the reputation of others. The eighth commandment shows us that we have gossiped, lied, slandered, and betrayed our neighbors. We've been silent in defending others, been afraid to speak the truth, but delighted in sharing other's faults. We've embellished stories, flattered others, and put on a front to make others think more highly of us. It calls us to repentance and faith in Christ who did not defend Himself, but silently went to the cross so we might become sons of God and who still intercedes for us before the Father.*

**Theme:** *The marriage feast has been prepared by our King.*

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

**HYMN:** Look Down, O Lord, from Heaven, Behold

**BIBLE VERSE:** Matthew 5:37

Simply let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No"; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

<i>What is the seventh commandment?</i> You shall not steal.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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.	1st Grade+
<i>What is the eighth commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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.	2nd Grade+

<b>DAILY READING</b>		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Genesis 13:1-12	47
Tuesday	Luke 19:1-10	383
Wednesday	Matthew 5:33-45	355
Thursday	Luke 23:33-43	402
Friday	1 Samuel 20:24-34	185
Saturday	Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ephesians 6:10-17; John 4:46-54	(Gen 29-30) 74

## **PRAYER**

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

### **Example:**

*Repeat the 7th commandment*

*A teaching: Dear Father, in the 7th commandment You teach me that You have given me all I have, the greatest gift being Christ. I am to be content with Your gifts and use all things in the way You desire, to your glory.*

*A thanksgiving: I thank You for what You've given to me and also what You've given to others. I thank You giving me all that I need to live on earth and in heaven.*

*A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have been discontent with Your gifts. I've been greedy, wanted what others have, and viewed my gifts with disdain. I've forgotten that Christ is the greatest gift.*

*A prayer: I ask You for help in keepings this commandment all my days, and help me live for heaven and be content and thankful with what You've given. 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 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Grant, we beseech You, merciful Lord, pardon and peace to Your faithful people: that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve You with a quiet mind; 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.