

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 10 through September 17, 2006*

Catechesis Notes for the Week—What is the work of the ministry? *This week concludes the two sections from the Table of Duties concerning "Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers and What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors." If we are admonished to hold our pastors "in the highest regard in love because of their work," we should understand clearly what their work is and what we should expect of them. The minister's work is clearly spelled out in our Lutheran Confessions: "According to divine right, therefore, it is the office of the bishop to preach the Gospel, forgive sins, judge doctrine and condemn doctrine that is contrary to the Gospel, and exclude from the Christian community the ungodly whose wicked conduct is manifest. All this is to be done not by human power but by God's Word alone. On this account [we] are bound to be obedient to the bishops according to the saying of Christ in Luke 10:16, 'He who hears you hears me.' On the other hand, if they teach, introduce, or institute anything contrary to the Gospel, we have God's command not to be obedient in such cases, for Christ says in Matt. 7:15, 'Beware of false prophets.'" Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII*

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.

Theme: The Lord Befriended His Enemies.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.

Psalms 142 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
Evening	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

The Catechism: The Table of Duties—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors—Second Half

<i>What does God's Word say the hearers of God's Word owe their pastors?</i> We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.	First Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:12
Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.	Second Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:13
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.	Third Grade + Hebrews 13:17

Readings for the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Monday	David Saves the City of Keilah—1 Samuel 23:1-13	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Tuesday	David Hides in the Wilderness—1 Samuel 23:14-29	1 Timothy 1:1-20
Wednesday	David Spares Saul's Life—1 Samuel 24:1-25:1	1 Timothy 2:1-15
Thursday	David and Abigail—1 Samuel 25:2-44	1 Timothy 3:1-16
Friday	David Spares Saul's Life a Second Time—1 Samuel 26:1-25	1 Timothy 4:1-16
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday	1 Timothy 5:1-25

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Academy, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; 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; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

In Our Prayers this Week

That the Lord would raise up them that fall and strengthen such as do stand, and that He would comfort the weak-hearted and the distressed.

Ed and Bernice Lemke, celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary.

Ann Pagac, mother of Joanne LaSage, undergoing treatment for cancer.

The family of Bob Jones who mourns Bob's sudden death.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (St. 1-3)

364

Look forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 17, 2006

Hymns: 243, 36, 364, 33

Proverbs 4:10-23: *Solomon teaches that instruction in the Word of God is the life-blood of the Christian faith and life.*

Galatians 5:16-24: *St. Paul says that those who practice "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentious, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like" shall not inherit the kingdom of God. These are the works of the unbelieving flesh. Doesn't this condemn us all? Yes, according to the flesh it does. But according to the Spirit, that is, according to the Gospel, we are not condemned for our sin but are rather justified by faith in Christ. Does that mean that we Christians "continue in sin"? No. Yes we still struggle against sin and the fight is fierce, but by the power of the Gospel the Spirit begins to bring forth in us the fruits of faith which are "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

Luke 17:11-19: *Leprosy separated the leper from the worshipping community. The leper was believed to be under God's curse because of his sin. In order for the leper to be "cleansed of sin" and admitted into the synagogue and temple, the required sacrifices had to be offered. In this Gospel, Jesus cleanses ten lepers who cried out to Him for mercy. He instructs them to show themselves to the priests. In this action He shows Himself to be the fulfiller of the Law, the required sacrifice, and the only One who could remove the curse of sin. All that the Temple represented was fulfilled in Jesus. The Samaritan, who would not have ordinarily accepted the Temple worship in Jerusalem, returned to Jesus to give glory to God, because He came to believe that Jesus alone was God's gift of eternal life and salvation for sinners.*