

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 2 through September 9, 2007*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Third and Fourth Commandments — *The Third Commandment directs us to the importance of the Word of God, and the preaching of the Gospel. The faith spoken of in the First and Second Commandments is created by the Word of God, linking these first two commandments with the Third. Sabbath rest is the rest that the Word gives because the Word gives us Christ. The irony or paradox of the first table of the Law is that it demands a faith of the heart of which we are incapable, and yet the Gospel declares that we are justified by faith. The solution to the paradox is in Jesus. He is the man of faith who has fulfilled the Law of God for us. His righteousness, which includes the very gift of faith itself, is given to us through the preaching of the Gospel when our hearts have been broken by the Law. Therefore, the faith that we are incapable of on our own is also a gift of God's grace in Christ, the faithful Man for us. The Bible Stories for the week highlight both the Third and the Fourth Commandments. The Boy Jesus in the Temple shows our Savior taking on the office of a faithful man. Chief among man's duties is the hearing, learning, and teaching God's Word. In this story Jesus honors (Fourth Commandment) both His heavenly Father and His earthly father who should have known His business: the teaching of God's Word (Third Commandment). The story of Mary and Martha teaches us that the one thing needful is the Word of God. The story of Absalom gives us an example of a son's grievous sins against the Fourth Commandment as he steals the affection of the people of Israel away from his father David, their king. The story of Ruth is a positive example of a daughter's love and faithfulness.*

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: Jesus Is the Faithful Neighbor to His Enemies.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

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.

Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Morning | 92 | 95, 96 | 98, 100 | 101 | 103 | 105 | 107 | 109 |
| Evening | 94 | 97 | 99 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 108 | 110, 111 |

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Third and Fourth Commandments

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| What is the Third Commandment? Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. | Preschool + |
| What does this mean? 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. | Second Grade + |
| What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother. | Preschool + |
| What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them. | First Grade + |

Readings for the Week of Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

| Day | Bible Stories for the Family and Academy | Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299 | |
|-----------|---|--|-----------------|
| Sunday | The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37 | 1 Kings 18:20-40 | Eph. 2:1-22 |
| Monday | No School—Labor Day | 1 Kings 19:1-21 | Eph. 3:1-21 |
| Tuesday | The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:(40) 41-52 | 2 Kings 2:1-18 | Eph. 4:1-24 |
| Wednesday | Mary Sits at Jesus' Feet—Luke 10:38-42 | 2 Kgs. 2:19-25; 4:1-7 | Eph. 4:25–5:14 |
| Thursday | The Rebellion of Absalom—2 Samuel 15:2-15 (15:16–18:5) 18:6-15 (16-32) 18:33–19:6 | 2 Kgs. 4:8-22, 32-37 | Eph. 15-33 |
| Friday | Ruth—Ruth 1:1-19a (1:19b–3:18) 4:1-10 (11-22) | 2 Kgs. 4:38–5:8 | Eph. 6:1-24 |
| Saturday | Look ahead to Sunday's readings | 2 Kgs. 5:9-27 | Phil. 1:1-20 |
| Sunday | Look ahead to Sunday's readings | 2 Kgs. 6:1-23 | Phil. 1:21–2:11 |

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

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain what You have promised, make us love what You have commanded; 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; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

*Gay Heling, hospitalized with an infection in her leg.
 Audrey Steinhilb, recuperating and undergoing therapy in a Menomonee Falls Nursing Home
 Gary Schmidt, son of Chris and Florence, suffering with hypoplastic anemia
 Those suffering with cancer: John LaSage, brother of Steve LaSage;
 Donna Ziegler, sister of Virjean Schmidt; Bill Kallio, good friend of Judy Jones.
 Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the Bulgarians.*

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

Hymn of Week

"Oh, Blest the House" (st. 1-3)

862

Look forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 9, 2007

Hymns: 606, 849, 793

Proverbs 4:10-23; Galatians 5:16-24; Luke 17:11-19

The ten lepers cried out from a distance, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (Luke 17:11–19). Their condition cut them off from God and others. So also do the works of the flesh cut us off from God and others. "Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal 5:16–24). Thus we cry out with the lepers, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy," eagerly seeking His good gifts. Jesus said to the lepers, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. So too, we walk by faith and not by sight, being confident of Jesus' help before we see any evidence of it, trusting that Jesus' cleansing words of forgiveness will restore us to wholeness in the resurrection. Let us be as the one leper who returned to the true High Priest to give Him thanks and glory. For Jesus bore our infirmities in His sacrifice at Calvary. His words are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh (Prov 4:10–23).— Lutheran Service Book Project