

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer.
 For the Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 29, 2010 through September 5, 2010

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Praying the Catechism at the Beginning of a New Catechetical Year—Our annual walk through the Catechism, from the Ten Commandments through the Table of Duties, begins this week. Bible Stories for the next six weeks will highlight the portion of the Ten Commandments assigned to each week. The Ten Commandments not only show us our sin and how much we need our Savior Jesus Christ, but when we look at the Small Catechism’s explanation to each of the commandments we also see a picture of our Lord Jesus Himself. He is the righteous man for us in both His active obedience in keeping the Law and in His passive obedience in suffering for us under the Law’s condemnation for sin. He is the man who “fears, loves, and trusts in God above all things” (First Commandment); and He is the man who “calls upon God in every trouble, who prays, praises, and gives thanks” at all times (Second Commandment). **The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace** is the first Bible Story of the Year. It highlights the First Commandment. We see the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego who refused to worship the idolatrous image, even if it cost them their lives. Their confession of faith is clear: “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king, But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” As these three men stand in the midst of the fire, we see that it is the Son of God who stands with them in the things through which they suffer. So it is with us. The First Commandment invites us to trust in the only true God and Savior and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ gives us the faith and confidence that the First Commandment demands. **Daniel in the Lions’ Den** shows us that unwavering faith in the Lord and daily prayer characterizes the life of a believer. Daniel prayed every day, whether he enjoyed the king’s favor or not, because he believed that his ultimate good came from the Lord. **Jesus prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane** teaches us that the faith that calls upon the Lord in trouble is the faith that yields to the Lord’s will, especially in suffering, because His will is good and our life and salvation is won for us only through the suffering and death of His Son. In **Peter’s Denial** we are reminded that we have no strength of our own to trust in the Lord and remain faithful to Him, but that our strength comes only from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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: You Shall Have No Other Gods.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
 with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Psalm: 131 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You alone are the only true and living God. You have created and sustain all things, and in You alone is life and salvation. Teach us at all times to love You with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength, that receiving You we might ever know and abide in the consolation of Your love all the days of our lives, for You live and reign one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96
Evening	81	83	86	87	90	93	94	97

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The First and Second Commandments

What is the First Commandment? You shall have no other gods.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.	First Grade +
What is the Second Commandment? You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.	Preschool +
What does this mean? 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.	Second Grade +

Readings for the week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Man with Dropsy Healed; Take the Lowly Place—Luke 14:1-14	1 Kings 11:42-12:19	2 Cor. 7:1-16
Monday	First Day of School—Sunday’s Gospel— Luke 14:1-14	1 K. 12:20-13:5, 33-34	2 Cor. 8:1-24
Tuesday	The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace—Daniel 3:1-28 (29-30)	1 Kings 16:29-17:24	2 Cor. 9:1-15
Wednesday	Daniel and the Lions’ Den—Daniel 6:1-23 (24)	1 Kings 18:1-19	Eph. 1:1-23
Thursday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Matthew 26:36-46	1 Kings 18:20-40	Eph. 2:1-22
Friday	Peter Denies His Lord—Matthew 26:69-75	1 Kings 19:1-21	Eph. 3:1-21
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	2 Kings 2:1-18	Eph. 4:1-24
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	2 Kings 2:19-25, 4:1-7	Eph. 4:25-5:14

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

Collect for the week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

Logan Burns, whose multiple heart surgeries have failed, along with his father and mother, Russell and Lisa, who are caring for him during his final days. Cathy Hibbard, daughter of Ed and Bernice Lemke, diagnosed with breast cancer. Ron Allred recuperating from major back surgery. David Whitmer, liver and bone marrow disease.

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

Hymn of the Week

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (Stanzas 1-2)

791

Looking forward to the week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2010

Hymns: 685, 713, 622, 851, 667

Deuteronomy 30:15-20: *The way of life and good is to walk in the fear and love of the Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ. The ways of the Lord that our flesh finds so distasteful actually lead to life and freedom because they draw their strength from Christ.*

Philemon 1-21: *Paul writes this pastoral epistle to Philemon whose slave, Onesimus, had run away from Philemon only to encounter the Apostle Paul and become a Christian. Now that Onesimus had been brought to faith, he realizes that he must return to his master. Paul urges Philemon to receive his slave as a brother in Christ and not to cast him out.*

Luke 14:25-35: *Shocking! Is how the words of Jesus sound in our ears: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” How can Jesus say such things? Jesus’ words are shocking to our ears precisely because, whether we realize it or not, there are many other relationships that are more important to us than our relationship to Him. Only Jesus is our creator and Savior. True love and the meaning of life comes only from Him who “hated Himself” enough to lay down His life for us. No one is more important than Jesus and no work is greater than His sacrifice for us upon the cross. Take away Jesus and His suffering and death, and there is no life, no father, mother, wife or children, brothers or sisters. Take away Jesus and all our relationships are actually self-serving and idolatrous. Everything that we are and have is dependant upon Him. Though Jesus speaks of the exclusivity of the Christian faith—that it MUST be in HIM ALONE—the paradox of the Christian faith is that those who love Him above all others are those who love others best. The Christian faith and life has a cost to every Christian: the letting go of self. None of us can pay that price; nevertheless, it is what faith demands. It is Christ, who works in us by His Word and Spirit, who enables us to love Him alone. And it is Christ in us who enables us to love rightly those who are nearest and dearest to us. This is, after all, why we are His disciples.*