
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19-25, 2016*

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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Jesus Dispenses God's Grace Liberally!

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Seventh and Eighth Commandments—In the **Seventh Commandment**, "You shall not steal," God wishes to protect His gift of property. Christians have a unique perspective on temporal goods. We are given our property that we might use it for the benefit of others. The Catechism declares that we are to help our neighbor "to improve and protect his possessions and income." This is a concrete expression of love. In the **Eighth Commandment**, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor," God wishes to protect the gift of a good name and reputation. We are not only called to speak the truth in love to our neighbor and for our neighbor's benefit, but we are also called to use our tongue to cover the sin and shame of others. We are called to "defend [our neighbor], speak well of him, and explain everything [about him] in the kindest way." **This week's verse** is a portion of Jesus' catechesis on the Eighth Commandment in which He instructs us that our speech should be governed by the truth of God's Word, anything other than this is of the devil: "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✙, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Matthew 5:37

G Let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	109	112,113	115	117,118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism*, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Evening	108	110,111	114	116	120,121	119:25-88	119:113-136

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord, You are worthy of all praise and worship for You are the creator of all things and You look upon us in mercy. We praise You for your unfailing grace by which our lives are preserved and Your salvation given; in Jesus' name.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Fifth & Sixth Commandments

L What is the Seventh Commandment? C You shall steal.	Preschool +
L What does this mean? C We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve his property and means of income.	First Grade +
Prayers on the Seventh Commandment: <i>Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of stealing and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not take possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i> <i>Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Seventh Commandment You teach us that all of our possessions and income are gifts of your love. You have given us our daily work and earthly resources that we might serve our neighbor in need. For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins of selfishness and greed, of being stingy and making a god out of our money and possessions, of cheating others to get what we don't deserve, of being lazy in our daily tasks, and of working only for the benefit of ourselves. We thank You for the privilege of being able to share Your love and care for others through the daily work and temporal gifts You have given us. Grant us Your grace and compassion in Jesus that we might be faithful stewards of these gifts, using them according to Your will to help our neighbors in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i>	
L What is the Eighth Commandment? C You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +
L What does this mean? C We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.	Second Grade +
Prayers on the Eighth Commandment: <i>Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of giving false testimony against our neighbor and strengthen our faith in Jesus 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 about him in the kindest way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i> <i>Most merciful God and Father, in the Eighth Commandment You teach us that a person's good name and reputation are gifts of your grace and that you desire them to be defended and protected by what we say. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of lying, gossip, and slander which hurts our neighbor in the eyes of others. Forgive us for all the ways in which we pass judgment against our neighbor when we have not been given the authority to do so. Forgive us for failing to defend our neighbor when his good name and reputation are being attacked by others. By Your words of grace and mercy to us in Jesus, teach us to tell the truth in love, and strengthen us to cover our neighbor's sins with words of forgiveness and compassion: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i>	

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

Bible Stories for the Family			Through the Bible in Two Years
Monday	Jesus' examination by Annas	Luke 22:54a; John 18:12b-14, 19-23	Revelation 14
Tuesday	Peter and another disciple in the courtyard of the High Priest's residence	Matthew 26:58; Mark 14:54; Luke 22:54b-55; John 18:15-18	Revelation 15
Wednesday	Jesus' informal trial	Matthew 26:57, 59-68; Mark 14:53, 55-65; John 18:24	Revelation 16
Thursday	First Lesson for the 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 6:1-7	Revelation 17
Friday	Second Lesson for the 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Timothy 6:6-16	Revelation 18
Saturday	Gospel for the 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 16:19-31	Revelation 19
Sunday	Peter's Denial of Christ: The First	Matthew 26:69-71a; Mark 14:66-68; Luke 22:56-57	Revelation 20

NEXT WEEK WE BEGIN A DAILY READING OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A COPY OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, SPEAK TO PASTOR SEELOW.

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

L Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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.

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.

In Our Prayers this Week

Brianna Lange, as she celebrates her birthday this week, that the Lord continue to shower blessings upon her in another year of His favor and grace.

Bryce & Tanya Scherling, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week, that the Lord continue to bless them in their marriage and that they continue to show the love of Christ in their love for one another.

Delores Adelung, as she recovers from surgery, that the Lord grant her healing and relief, and thankfulness for the success of the surgeons and nurses, and that he continue to strengthen her every day in body and soul.

Presley Carpenter, who was hospitalized this week, that the Lord watch over her and protect her, that he guide the medical means necessary to bring about healing and relief, and that he keep her in her baptismal grace everyday.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

² Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"

190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost



1 We now im - plore God the Ho - ly Ghost
 2 Shine in our hearts, O most pre - cious Light,
 3 O sa - cred Love, grace on us be - stow,
 4 O high - est Com - fort in ev - 'ry need,

For the true faith which we need the most,
 That we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,
 Set our hearts with heav'n - ly fire a - glow
 Grant that nei - ther shame nor death we heed

That in our last mo - ments he may be -
 Cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has
 That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each
 That e'en then our cour - age may nev - er

friend us And, as home - ward we jour - ney,
 bought us, Who a - gain to our home - land
 oth - er, Of one mind, in peace with ev -
 fail us When the foe shall ac - cuse and

at - tend us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 'ry broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!
 as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: German hymn, c. 13th century, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, st. 2–4; tr. composite.
 Tune: NUN BITTEN WIR (99 11 10 4) *Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.