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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

**October 3-9, 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: Lord, Increase Our Faith in Your Mercy.**

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— Review of the Commandments and the Close of the Commandments** — The first commandment is behind all the commandments, and all the commandments are interconnected in the demand to love God above all things. The threat of the Law to punish anyone who turns away from God is visited upon Jesus in His death upon the cross. He was punished for the sin of the fathers in fulfillment of the law. Therefore, there is grace and mercy for us sinners, because Jesus "loved and trusted in God and gladly did what God demanded." He did this even to the point of suffering the punishment that we sinners deserved. Death and condemnation is the result of turning away from God, the source of all life. The tablets of the Law that were hurled at the Jews from Mount Sinai show how all our righteousness is crushed under the scrutiny of God's commandments. This is necessary. If we do not feel the crushing blow of the Law, we cannot receive the righteousness of Christ. Christ bore the crushing blow of the Law's condemnation in His death. He willingly took our place, like a scapegoat, and suffered all that we by our sins deserved. Why did He do this? His love and desire to save us and give us life is at the heart of all that He does for us, even when the Law is proclaimed that crushes our self-righteousness and pride.

### INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.<sup>1</sup>

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

**G** Amen.

### APOSTLES' CREED

### VERSE

*James 2:10*

**G** Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.'"



## 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
<b>Morning</b>	137,138	140,141	144	147	148	1,2	5
<b>Evening</b>	139	142,143	145	146	149,150	3	4,6

## PSALM PRAYER

**L** Lord God, heavenly Father, You are holy and just, but You are also merciful and compassionate, not willing that any sinner should perish. Jesus bore the punishment demanded of us by Your holy Law. Use Your Law to call us to repentance for our sin that we might flee to Jesus for salvation. Teach us to fear Your wrath so that we do not transgress Your commandments; and strengthen us by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we love and trust in You and happily do what You command, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## THE CATECHISM: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*Conclusion to the Ten Commandments*

<p><b>L</b> What are the Ten Commandments?</p> <p><b>C</b> You shall have no other gods...etc.</p>	Preschool +
<p><b>L</b> What does God say about all these commandments?</p> <p><b>C</b> He says, "I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to thousands who love me and keep my commandments."</p>	First Grade +
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><b>Prayers on the Conclusion to the Commandments:</b></p> <p><i>Almighty God, You threaten to punish all who break Your commandments. Therefore, help us to fear Your wrath and not do anything against them. But You also promise grace and every blessing to all who keep Your commandments. Therefore, forgive us our sins and strengthen our faith in Jesus, so that we love and trust in You and gladly do what You command. In Jesus' name, Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Lord God, heavenly Father, apart from You we have no life or salvation, therefore You are a jealous God, desiring us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. You punish children for the sin they share in and have committed from their fathers, that they might be brought to repentance and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. You show love and mercy to those who love You and keep Your commandments, therefore, grant us true repentance and forgive us every sin against Your holy Law that we might cheerfully love You and gladly do what 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.</i></p>	

## 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
<b>Monday</b>	Jesus' first appearance before Pilate	Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-7; John 18:28b-38	Luther's Large Catechism [LC]: Longer Preface 1-10
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jesus' appearance before Herod Antipas	Luke 23:8-12	LC Longer Preface 11-20, Shorter Preface 1-6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jesus' second appearance before Pilate	Matthew 27:15-31; Mark 15:6-20; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:16a	LC Longer Preface 11-20, Shorter Preface 1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	First Lesson for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1-19a	LC Shorter Preface <i>Summary of Catechism</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Second Lesson for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 1:8-11	LC Part I - Ten Commandments [I]: 1-9
<b>Saturday</b>	Gospel for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 17:11-19	I:10-17
<b>Sunday</b>	Jesus' journey to Calvary	Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:16b-17a	I:18-29

**WE HAVE BEGUN 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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:*

**L** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; 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***

*Austin Adelung, as he has his birthday this week, that the Lord continue to shower blessings upon him in another year of His favor and grace.*

*Kathy Powers and her family, at the death of her father, that the Lord comfort them with the promises made in the resurrection, and that the mournful tears eventually turn to joy in the gift of eternal life with Jesus.*

*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.*

*Isaiah Schaser, as he continues to recover from a serious injury, that the Lord watch over him and protect him, that he guide the medical means necessary to bring about healing and relief, and that He keep him in his 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.'"

## SOCIAL CONCERN

**520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old**

1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was  
 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health, Gave  
 3 Oh, be our great de-liv-'rer still, The

strong to heal and save; It tri-umphed o'er dis-  
 speech and strength and sight; And youth re-newed and  
 Lord of life and death; Re-store and quick-en,

ease and death, All dark-ness and the grave. To  
 fren-zy calmed Re-vealed you, Lord of light. And  
 soothe and bless, With your life-giv-ing breath. To

you they came, the blind, the dumb, The par-a-  
 now, O Lord, be near eyes to bless, Al-might-y  
 hands that work and eyes that see Give wis-dom's

lyzed and lame, The lep-ers in their  
 as be-fore, In crowd-ed street, by  
 heal-ing pow'r That whole and sick and

mis-er-y, The sick with fe-vered frame.  
 beds of pain, As by Gen-nes-'ret's shore.  
 weak and strong May praise you ev-er-more.

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

Tune: KINGSFOLD (CM D) English folk tune, 19th century, adapt.