

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 28 through September 3

✠ Catechesis Notes for the Week ✠

Repetition- Isn't it a lot of useless babbling? Many people are often bothered by repeating prayers, creeds, and sections of the catechism by heart. Doesn't this demonstrate a lack of spirituality? Doesn't Jesus condemn "vain repetition"? Jesus does condemn vain repetition? Yes He does! Vain repetition is the repetition of words with no faith in Christ or with the belief that our prayers are a good work which helps us earn God's grace. This is the bad part of repetition. But Jesus' condemnation of "vain repetition" applies also to the so-called "prayers from the heart", when those prayers come from the same kind of faith. We must remember the source of true spirituality. It does not come from the emotions of our heart or our creative mind. It comes from the Spirit of God through a definite Word He has spoken to us. It is the sturdy and unchanging Word of God which gives life to our prayers. Through God's word the Holy Spirit works true faith, enabling us to call upon Him in prayer. The repetition of words which are deeply anchored in the Word of God, enables the Word of God to penetrate deeply into the very depths of our soul. The Holy Spirit continues to minister to us, even when we are unaware of it, through the Word of God which is learned by heart and repeated in prayer. As you pray and listen to the Word of God in those things which are "learned by heart" the Holy Spirit gives you true faith.

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.****

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 1:16a

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

Psalm 119:105-112—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer after the psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks that of your great goodness and mercy you freely gave your only-begotten Son to become incarnate and to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. We pray for the gift of your Holy Spirit, that He may lead us into all truth and enlighten our hearts according to the promises of your Word. Grant us a firm faith in your Son, that we not grow weary in the face of tribulation and suffering, but evermore give thanks for your grace that sustains us in our weaknesses. Comfort us in all times of persecution and testing for the faith. Teach us to find our greatest joy and strength in the congregation of the faithful, where your Gospel is preached in its purity and Christ's holy body and precious blood are received for our eternal refreshment, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Catechism—The First and Second Commandments

The Third Commandment

Kindergarten +

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

Second Grade +

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.

The Fourth Commandment

Kindergarten +

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

Second Grade +

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.

Readings for the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

(Note that Saturday's reading will be the Sermon text for the coming Sunday service at Immanuel and St. Paul Lutheran Churches).

Day	Reading
Monday	The Worship of the Golden Calf – Exodus 32:1-14
Tuesday	God's Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers – Exodus 32:15-35
Wednesday	The LORD Renews His Covenant with Israel – Exodus 33:1-3; 34:1-10, 27-35
Thursday	Moses Sets Up the Tabernacle – Exodus 40:1-3, 16-38
Friday	The Burnt Offering – Leviticus 1:1-17
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20

*Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Immanuel and St. Paul
Collect for the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 Community Lutheran School, 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

Vernon Matthias, Gary Matthias, Orville Steege, Margaret Knief, Waldo Knief, Melba Kuhlmann, Ruby Huebner, Willard Piehl, Darrell Miller, Edna Pooch, Bethany Buzynski (Granddaughter of Bob and Shirley Kuker), Maxine Pooch, and all others who are sick and in need.

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

The Hymn of the Week ***Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal*** **#78 (v. 1)**

1. *Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal, Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End; God-head, humanity, union supernal, O great Redeemer, you come as our friend!*

(Note that the Hymn of the Week will be sung the following Sunday at St. Paul and Immanuel Lutheran Churches so that children who are unable to read may learn the words and participate in the service when singing the hymn.)

Looking Forward to the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgy: Divine Service I, p. 136 (Communion at St. Paul's, No Communion at Immanuel)

Hymns: 445, 78, 392

Holy Scripture: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:15-20