

Congregation at Prayer
✠ The 17th Sunday after Pentecost ✠

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of September 16th to 22nd

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

What happens on Sunday mornings sets the tone and pace for the whole week of a Christian. In fact, what happens on Sunday morning, or, as the 3rd commandment states, whenever the Sabbath is remembered and observed, is the most important thing in our whole life. Can you believe it? The most important thing in the whole world is so simple, so ordinary, so regular—and yet, God comes to you in Christ, forgives your sin, and sets you right with God forever.

Our confessions say it this way:

“So the worship and Divine Service of the Gospel is to receive gifts from God. On the contrary, the worship of the Law is to offer and present our gifts to God. However, we can offer nothing to God unless we have first been reconciled and born again. This passage, too, brings the greatest comfort, as the chief worship of the Gospel is to desire to receive the forgiveness of sins, grace, and righteousness” (*Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, V.130:189).

It’s for this reason, receiving these Gospel gifts from our Lord, that we gather together at Church. Together we hear His Word, receive the promise of sins forgiven, and eat and drink the body and blood of our dear Lord for our forgiveness and life. Our daily lives receive their ordering and peace from this altar and this pulpit, in this Church where Christ has promised to be for us.

Here we confess God as One. Here the Baptized gather around this oneness, and are joined together into this One Body. As St. Paul says,

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph 4:4-6)

This one God comes to us each and every *Lord’s Day* (Sunday) in order to unite us to Himself and Himself to us. Let us ever rejoice in such a gracious and giving Lord!

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of All

Responsive Prayer 2, *Lutheran Service Book* p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Ten Commandments:
3rd and 4th Commandments**

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

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.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

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.

Daily Readings...

Monday (9/16): 2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25; Colossians 3:1-25

Tuesday (9/17): 2 Chronicles 36:1-23; Colossians 4:1-18

Wednesday (9/18): Nehemiah 1:1-2:10; 1 Timothy 1:1-20

Thursday (9/19): Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Friday (9/20): Nehemiah 4:7-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Saturday (9/21): Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Sunday (9/22): Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18; 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Prayer of the Week...

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

Psalm 30

Hymn of the Week... “*Shepherd of Tender Youth*”

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-15

Luke 16:1-15