

Congregation at Prayer
✠ 18th Sunday after Pentecost ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of September 23rd to 29th*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

The two commandments we'll be learning by heart this week are both addressed in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:21-30. For the fifth commandment Jesus says,

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder...' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5:21-24)

And for the sixth He says,

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Mt 5:27-28)

God has given me and all people life. Life is holy because God created us in His image to receive what He gives and to reflect His love to one another. He does this through the gift of marriage, where love is selflessly shared and children are given this gift of life and love as well.

When we break these commandments, we reject the gifts of life and love. And yet, when these are upheld, we're joyously included in our Lord's work of sustaining and creating life to receive His gifts.

We can't overestimate life. It's *true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and excellent*, just like St. Paul says in our passage from Philippians. Life is all these things because life is Christ. Jesus says, *"I am the bread of life"* (John 6:48); *"I am the resurrection and the life"* (John 11:25); *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6). He who is the life of the world has united His life to yours in an act of selfless love. He has kept these commandments for you.

Life and Love in Christ

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Ten Commandments:
5th and 6th Commandments**

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Daily Readings...

Monday (9/23): Nehemiah 9:1-21; 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

Tuesday (9/24): Nehemiah 9:22-38; 1 Timothy 6:3-21

Wednesday (9/25): Malachi 1:1-14; Matthew 3:1-17

Thursday (9/26): Malachi 2:1-3:5; Matthew 4:1-11

Friday (9/27): Malachi 3:6-4:6; Matthew 4:12-25

Saturday (9/28): Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Matthew 5:1-20

Sunday (9/29): Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Matthew 5:21-48

Prayer of the Week...

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

Psalm 119:137-144

Hymn of the Week... *"We All Believe in One True God"*

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 Revelation 12:7-12 Luke 10:17-20