

Congregation at Prayer

✠ Pentecost 20 ✠

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of October 7th to October 13th

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

This week's commandments are all about coveting. But what is coveting, and why is it so bad or hard that we need two commandments to tell us not to do it?! Well, to covet means to have the selfish desire to possess or have something or someone that isn't given to you by God. That's who we are in our sin—those who want what we're not given, and who hate the gifts we have. We do not delight in our Lord or His gifts.

Our natural instinct is to hate those who have as much or more than we have. We always want to be best, have the best, and be seen as better than others. And that's because our true delight is in ourselves.

These last two commandments forbid our being first, and give that right to our neighbor. We hear Christ's echo here,

“Whoever is first shall be last and the last shall be first”
~ Matthew 19:30

These commandments are also contrary to the way our sinful society thinks. The world teaches us to gather as much as we can, even to the detriment of another. Business techniques are cruel, everyone looks after “*numero uno*” and hates to see another succeed. These commandments teach us to repent of our lust for power and wealth and accumulation.

And yet, these commandments also teach us to rely solely on Christ alone, who gives us all good gifts and lavishly! They invite us to delight in His giving to us. His generosity is without limits and He gives gifts to those who certainly don't deserve them! He also protects our own gifts with these commandments, keeping them for our good and blessing.

As with all other commandments, we see the Lord as giver of many great gifts, and also the preserver of these gifts for our benefit and joy!

Delighting in the Lord

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Ten Commandments:
9th and 10th Commandments**

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Daily Readings...

Monday (10/7): Deuteronomy 6:10-25; Matthew 9:18-38

Tuesday (10/8): Deuteronomy 7:1-19; Matthew 10:1-23

Wednesday (10/9): Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Matthew 10:24-42

Thursday (10/10): Deuteronomy 9:1-22; Matthew 11:1-19

Friday (10/11): Deuteronomy 9:23-10:22; Matthew 11:20-30

Saturday (10/12): Deuteronomy 11:1-25; Matthew 12:1-21

Sunday (10/13): Deuteronomy 11:26-12:12; Matthew 12:22-37

Prayer of the Week...

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. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

Psalm 119:161-168

Hymn of the Week... “By Grace I'm Saved”

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Ruth 1:1-19a

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Luke 17:11-19