

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
 September 6th through September 12th, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Sanctity of Life and Marriage—In the Second Table of the Law (Commandments 4 through 10), God wishes to protect all His good gifts. This week our attention focuses upon the Fifth and the Sixth Commandments. In the Fifth Commandment God desires to protect His gift of life. All of human life is sacred, from conception in the womb to the oldest and most frail human being in whom there is the breath of life. All human life is sacred because we are made in the image of the Triune God of love. Even though sin has corrupted mankind, God desires to save and redeem that which He has made and that which He loves. For this reason, Christians “fear and love God so that they do not hurt or harm [their] neighbor...but help and support him in every bodily need.” In the Sixth Commandment God desires to protect the place where human life continues to be given by God: Holy Marriage. Marriage is sacred and holy because it was created by God who brings the woman to the man and joins them together in marriage that they might love each other, care for the creation, and receive the gift and heritage of children. For this reason, Christians, “fear and love God so that they lead a sexually pure and decent life in what they say and do and husband and wife love and honor each other.” When we honor God’s gifts of life and marriage, we honor God Himself who gave us these gifts in love.

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 use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: The Word Opens Our Hearts to Receive Life.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Mark 10:7b, 8, 9

“A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
 and the two shall become one flesh’;
 so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.
 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Psalms 119:9-16 (antiphon: v. 12)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Fifth and Sixth Commandments

What is the Fifth Commandment? You shall not murder.	Preschool +
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.	First Grade +
What is the Sixth Commandment? You shall not commit adultery.	Preschool +
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.	Second Grade +



Prayers on the Fifth Commandment: Heavenly Father, forgive us our sins against the Fifth Commandment. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Fifth Commandment You teach us that the gift of life is sacred and holy, and that it is to be protected from every form of murder. By the gift of Your only-begotten Son You saved us from death and restored life with You. We give thanks to You for this gift and for our new life in Christ. Forgive us for every form of murder—for hatred, resentment, and refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us. Grant us Your grace and mercy that we might let go of all grudges, sincerely forgive our enemies, and truly help and support our neighbor in every physical need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Sixth Commandment: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of marriage, where you join together a man and a woman in love for each other and, when it is Your will, to become a father and a mother. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we lead a pure and decent life in what we say and do, and grow to be faithful husbands and wives who love and honor our spouses; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Sixth Commandment You teach us that marriage is Your gift to us, where a man and a woman are brought together in love to become one flesh and, when it is Your will, for receiving the gift of children. Thank You for this wonderful gift to us. Forgive us for every sin against marriage and the Sixth Commandment. Uphold all husbands and wives in their marriages. Give them faithfulness to Your Word. Teach them to live according to Your will. Strengthen them to live in Your love for each other; and enable them to live sexually pure and decent lives in everything that they say and do as husbands and wives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the week of Trinity 14

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Warning Against Idleness—2 Thessalonians 3:1-15	Ephesians 6:5-9
Tuesday	The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1-17	Hebrews 6:1-12
Wednesday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	Hebrews 6:13-20
Thursday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	Hebrews 7:1-10
Friday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	Hebrews 7:11-19
Saturday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Galatians 5:25—6:10

Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help 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

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

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

Hymn of the Week "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

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Looking forward to the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 13th 2026

Hymns: 782, 760, 623, 427, 631, 685, 704, 632, 869

1 Kings 17:8-16: As the Lord provided for the prophet Elijah and the widow in persecution and suffering, so the Lord will provide and sustain His Church and all who are faithful to Him in the time of testing and persecution.

Galatians 5:25—6:10: To "walk in the Spirit" is to walk by faith in God's Word. The Holy Spirit "leads" the Christian Church in the humility of faith by the testimony of the Word of God. At the conclusion of his epistle to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul reminds the churches to continue in the love of Christ by bearing one another's burdens and caring for the temporal support of their pastors.

Matthew 6:24-34: "You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt 6:24-34), for they require two contrary forms of service. Worry is the worship given to the false god of mammon, an unbelieving anxiousness and focus on the things of this world. Faith is the worship of the true God, a confident trust that He is a loving Father who will care for all of our needs in both body and soul. The widow of Zarephath served God, that is, she believed the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah that the bin of flour would not be used up nor would the jar of oil run dry (1 Kings 17:8-16). He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will certainly provide for our daily needs. For He has already provided for our eternal needs, clothing us with Christ's righteousness in Baptism and feeding us His body and blood for our forgiveness. With such confidence we are liberated from worry and freed to do good with our material resources, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal 5:25-6:10). (Lutheran Service Book Notes)