

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
 September 20th through September 26th, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—Covetousness—Covetousness is in the heart and causes all kinds of sinful acts. Covetousness is the insatiable appetite to have those things which God has not allowed us to have according to our station and calling in life. It is the insistent desire that “I must have these things, people, or positions, etc.” Such desire is really idolatry and therefore connected to the First Commandment. Sinful acts arise out of the covetousness of the heart. This is why the catechism speaks against “scheming to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house” or “enticing away from our neighbor his wife, workers, or animals.” The sins of covetousness also involve obtaining things under the pretense that you actually have a right to these things. This is called obtaining things by “a show of right” or “in ways that only appear right.” It also includes turning the loyalties of our neighbor’s spouse or workers away from him (to whom such loyalties rightly belong) to ourselves. Their “switch of allegiance” gives the impression that our neighbor doesn’t deserve such loyalties and we do. Against the sins of covetousness our Lord calls us not only to repentance, but to find in Him the new life of faith which is not only content with what God gives, but actually delights in using everything which God has given for the benefit of others.

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 Dead Are Reconciled to God and One Another in Christ.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 12:15

Take heed and beware of covetousness,
 for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Psalm 30 (antiphon: v. 5b)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; 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 Ten Commandments—The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.	Preschool +
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	Second Grade +
What is 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.	Preschool +
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.	Second Grade +

Prayers on the Ninth Commandment: Gracious Lord, forgive us for coveting the things You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus 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; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, You teach us in the Ninth Commandment that we should not make an idol out of the things that belong to others, but that we should help and be of service to our neighbor in keeping what belongs to him. You have called us in love to look out for and protect all the temporal gifts that belong to others. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of covetous desire and envy, for insisting upon having things that you have not given us, for being preoccupied with finding ways to get more and more for ourselves, and for making plans to obtain things from others by claiming that we have a right to them and they do not. Guard the thoughts and desires of our hearts. Rescue us from every form of greed and selfishness. Teach us to love our neighbor by being of service to him in protecting what You have given him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Tenth Commandment: Gracious Lord forgive us for coveting a spouse, worker, or relationship with someone that You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus 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; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, in the Tenth Commandment You teach us that our God-given relationships with others are sacred and that they are to be honored and protected. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for coveting relationships with others that You have not given us, for every form of lust and self-centered desire, for wanting another person's spouse, for making a god out of people, for loving others more than we love You, and for trying to obtain the loyalty and affection of others that rightly belongs to our neighbor. Help us to be content with the relationships that You have given us. Grant us the gift of your grace and mercy in Jesus, so that in every way we encourage, support, and help our neighbors to maintain their God-given relationships in marriage, family, and the workplace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the week of Trinity 16

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist—Matthew 9:9-13	Ephesians 4:7-16
Tuesday	The Priestly Blessing—Numbers 6:22-27	Hebrews 9:23-28
Wednesday	The Second Passover—Numbers 9:1-14	Hebrews 10:1-10
Thursday	A Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night—Numbers 9:15-23	Hebrews 10:11-18
Friday	Israel Departs from Sinai—Numbers 10:11-14a, 29-36	Hebrews 10:19-25
Saturday	Proverbs 25:6-14	Ephesians 4:1-6

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

Collect for the Week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all 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

Collect for St. Matthew—Apostle & Evangelist (Monday)

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father 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 Evening and Morning (st. 1-3) **LSB #726**

Looking forward to the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	September 27th, 2026
Hymns: 698, 557, 622, 845, 625, 587, 617, 630, 783	
Proverbs 25:6-14: Jesus interprets the wisdom of Solomon in the Holy Gospel for the day. He who was the highest, our Lord and Savior, made Himself the lowest for us, that we who have no rightful place in the kingdom of the heavens might be seated with Him at the Father's right hand. Faith in Christ that manifests itself in love is always the faith that is directed completely outside of the self for the benefit of the neighbor.	
Ephesians 4:1-6: St. Paul explains that to the extent that Christians “bear one another’s burdens” and “love one another” it is by virtue of Christ in them, for “there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all” Christians by the call of the Gospel.	
Luke 14:1-11: “Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king” (Prov 25:6–14). Rather, take the lowest position at the table. Humble yourself before Him. For your place is not for you to take but for Him to give. Conduct yourself with all lowliness and gentleness, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:1–6), that the King may give you glory in the presence of those at the table with you. “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:1–11). Is this not the way of Christ? He is the one who took the lowest place, who humbled Himself even to the point of death for us. He is now exalted to the highest place at the right hand of the Father that penitent believers may be exalted together with Him in the resurrection. To the humble at His Supper He says, “Friend, go up higher,” giving you His very body and blood for your forgiveness that you may ascend to take part in the great wedding feast which has no end. (LSB hymnal project notes.)	