

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
October 11th through October 17th, 2020*

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

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

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism – The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Large Catechism - Besides our own body, our spouse, and our temporal property, we have one more treasure that is indispensable to us, namely, our honor and good reputation. For it is important that we not live among people in public disgrace and dishonor. Therefore God does not want our neighbors deprived of their reputation, honor, and character any more than of their money and possessions; he wants everyone to maintain self-respect before spouse, child, servant, and neighbor. “Bearing false witness” is nothing but a work of the tongue. God wants to hold in check whatever is done with the tongue against a neighbor. Rather, we should use our tongue to speak only the best about all people, to cover the sins and infirmities of our neighbors, to justify their actions, and to cloak and veil them with our own honor. Our chief reason for doing this is the one that Christ has given in the gospel, and in which he means to encompass all the commandments concerning our neighbor, “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you. –
Large Catechism

Memory Verse – Let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one (Matt. 5:37).

| Daily Readings | Bible Narrative | Second Reading | Psalm |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Sunday | Which Is the Greatest Commandment? Matthew 22:34-46 | | Psalm 50 |
| Monday | The Sin of Peor Numbers 25:1-18 | Galatians 2:1-10 | Psalm 51 |
| Tuesday | Joshua Is Ordained to Take Moses' Place Numbers 27:12-23 | Galatians 2:11-21 | Psalm 52 |
| Wednesday | Moses Reminds the People of God's Law Deuteronomy 1:1a, 3; 5:1-11a, 12, 16-22 | Galatians 3:1-9 | Psalm 53 |
| Thursday | Moses Warns the People Against Rebelling Deuteronomy 5:32-6:25 | Galatians 3:10-14 | Psalm 54 |
| Friday | The Lord Will Raise Up a Prophet Like Moses Deuteronomy 18:9-22 | Galatians 3:15-25 | Psalm 55 |
| Saturday | The Lord Promises Salvation to Jacob Genesis 28:1-1 | Ephesians 4:22-28 | Psalm 56 |

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends who mourn the death of Kris Kauling (Manager of Ferrin FS). **Those in Need of Healing:** Barb Mueller (recovering from surgery), Jason Brammeier (recovering from surgery), Lucille Stein, Sandy Wehking, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (brain tumor) (son-in-law of Roger & Joan Knolhoff), All affected and sick on account of the Coronavirus. **Homebound Members:** Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 11th Addison Golding, 12th Sylvia Kleiboeker, Paul Langenhorst, 13th Trevor Corry, 15th Sophia Hoffmann. **Anniversaries:** 15th Tyler & Kimberly Albers, Brian Rueter. **For Government Officials:** Donald Trump (President), JB Pritzker

(Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and strife. Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)

Hymn of the Week: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart (LSB 708)

Hymn of the Week: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," was penned by Martin Schalling (1532-1608). Though not well known outside Lutheranism, this hymn ranks among the most powerful text in all hymnody. Throughout this hymn, we see five main themes:

- (1) Hope and faith can be placed only in Christ ('Lord, Thee I love').
- (2) The worst evils, including death itself, may not be far off in a sinful world ('And should my heart for sorrow break').
- (3) In the midst of 'this poor life of labor,' God's strong presence is a reality ('Thy precious blood my soul has bought').
- (4) Temptations and threats against one's faith are real ('Let no false doctrine me beguile').
- (5) From the Christian's perspective, the end of this life is the beginning of joy in the next ('Lord, let at last Thine angels come').

Singing this hymn is a way to acknowledge our deepest fears in life today, answering them with the hope that comes only through Christ, now seated in glory, who will call us to share in that glory when we rise from the dead.