

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

October 25th through October 31st, 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 – Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Ex. 20:5–6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Large Catechism - Here we have the Ten Commandments, a summary of divine teaching on what we are to do to make our whole life pleasing to God. They are the true fountain from which all good works must spring, the true channel through which all good works must flow. Apart from these Ten Commandments no action or life can be good or pleasing to God, no matter how great or precious it may be in the eyes of the world. It seems to me that we shall have our hands full to keep these commandments, practicing gentleness, patience, love toward enemies, chastity, kindness, etc., and all that is involved in doing so. No one is able to keep even one of the Ten Commandments as it ought to be kept. Both the Creed and the Lord's Prayer must come to our aid, as we shall hear later. Through them we must seek and pray for help and receive it continually. These are not human trifles but

the commandments of the most high Majesty, who watches over them with great earnestness, who is angry and punishes those who despise them, and, on the contrary, abundantly rewards those who keep them. Where people consider this and take it to heart, there will arise a spontaneous impulse and desire gladly to do God's will. Therefore we should prize and value them above all other teachings as the greatest treasure God has given us. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Truth Shall Set You Free John 8:31-36		Psalm 64
Monday	The Destruction of Jericho Joshua 6:1-27	Galatians 5:16-26	Psalm 65
Tuesday	The Sin of Achan Joshua 7:1-26	Galatians 6:1-10	Psalm 66
Wednesday	The Fall of Ai Joshua 8:1-29	Galatians 6:11-18	Psalm 67
Thursday	The Sun and Moon Stand Still Joshua 10:1-28	Ephesians 1:1-12	Psalm 68
Friday	Joshua's Conquests Joshua 11:15-20; 13:1-7; 18:1-2, 10; 21:43-45	Ephesians 1:12-23	Psalm 69
Saturday	The Great Multitude Arrayed in White Revelation 7:9-17	1 John 3:1-3	Psalm 70

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 in Need of Healing:** Sam Tepe (Angie Siddell's brother, recovering from surgery), (Barb Mueller, Jason Brammeier, 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:** 26th Braiden Yardley, Kaitlynn Hull, Karen Yardley, Ron Michael. **Anniversaries:** 25th Paul & Judy Kleiboeker, 26th Eric & Kathy Hanke, 27th Sara & Adam Hanks. **For Area Schools:** That faculty and students may delight in teaching and learning, and that they may be kept safe from the pandemic. **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: Salvation unto Us Has Come (LSB 555)

Hymn of the Week: By 1523, a mere six years after the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther was committed to providing German-language hymns for the people to sing and was actively seeking gifted poets to work with him on this project. One such poet was Paul Speratus (1484-1551). One of the three hymns he composed for Luther's hymnal was 'Salvation Unto Us Has Come' - this week's hymn of the week. Speratus' hymn wonderfully confesses the chief doctrine of the Lutheran Reformation - sinners are justification by grace through faith.