

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Ninth Sunday after Trinity  
(August 6<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***To Workers and Employers***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: To Workers and Employers**

Believe it or not, the LORD has something to say about how we live and act in those places where we work—what we normally think of as our jobs. And the work you do—whether you have your first job ever making pizzas, or whether you worked your way up in your career and are now in management, supervising those who work under you—is holy work. It is work with which you love and serve your neighbor. It is the work you do as a priest of God in the priesthood of all believers. This week we'll look at some passages which speak to the duties associated with our calling in the civil realm as workers, or as employers and/or supervisors. God bless your time in His Word!

**Invocation:** 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 Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment*

All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his rebellious and irritable child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child. If he is too weak, he gets the help of his friends and neighbors. If he departs this life, he delegates and confers his authority and government upon others who are appointed for the purpose. Likewise, a father must have domestic manservants and maidservants under himself for the management of the household. So all whom we call “masters” are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them.

| <b>Daily Readings</b> | <b>Catechetical Narrative</b>                                | <b>Second Reading</b> | <b>Psalm</b>    |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>         | <b>The Parable of the Dishonest Manager<br/>Luke 16:1-13</b> |                       | <b>Psalm 79</b> |
| <b>Monday</b>         | <b>Workers and Masters<br/>Ephesians 6:1-9</b>               | <b>Joshua 12</b>      | <b>Psalm 80</b> |
| <b>Tuesday</b>        | <b>Workers and Masters<br/>Colossians 3:12-25</b>            | <b>Joshua 13</b>      | <b>Psalm 81</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b>      | <b>Submission to Those in Authority<br/>Titus 2:1-10</b>     | <b>Joshua 14</b>      | <b>Psalm 82</b> |

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|-----------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Working as Brothers<br/>Philemon 1:8-16</b>     | <b>Joshua 15</b>        | <b>Psalm 83</b> |
| <b>Friday</b>   | <b>Submission to Authority<br/>1 Peter 2:13-25</b> | <b>Joshua 16</b>        | <b>Psalm 84</b> |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Jeremiah 8:4-12</b>                             | <b>Romans 9:30-10:4</b> | <b>Psalm 85</b> |

### Questions to Discuss in the Home

*Note: This week's readings speak of slaves and masters. We should not think of this as referring to the institution of slavery as it was known in our country's history. Rather, these passages have the 1st Century Greco-Roman world as their context. It is better to think of them, for comparison's sake, as workers and supervisors.*

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon - Fri:** What does this passage speak of regarding the office and duty of a slave/worker? What a person who is a supervisor/manager/master? How is one encouraged to think of his or her work? How does the passage encourage us to treat those with whom we work? How should the worker treat his or her master? How should the master treat his or her worker? How does this all relate to the person and work of Christ? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Circuit Vacancies:** Faith Lutheran (Flora), Trinity Lutheran (Iuka), Faith Lutheran (Mt. Vernon), Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Jeff Kleiboeker, Norma Rueter. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken. **Baptismal Birthday:** Mary Boeker, Brooke Kleiboeker (8/10), Victoria Siddell (8/11). **Anniversaries:** Crystal & Patrick Gebhart, Randy & Caroline Tate (8/8), Aaron & Bethany Ruckman (8/9).

### The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

**Hymn of the Week:** One Thing's Needful (LSB 536)