

**Congregation in Prayer – Oct 4, 2015**

They weren't expecting Jesus' answer. They asked a legal question and instead they were given a moral answer. "Because of your hardness of heart..." is the accusation that rings in our ears. Divorce exists because we are too hard-hearted to live with the companion we have been given. Such a hard hitting accusation though causes the light of the Gospel to shine even brighter as it pierces the darkness of our own guilt. So, even as it is not easy to hear such words from Jesus, it is good for us to do so for by these words He will cause us to "not neglect such a great salvation" (Heb 2:2) We have a great God, who subjected Himself to the reality of our fallen world in order to bring us out of it and into His restoration. [Genesis 2:18-25, Hebrews 2:1-18, Mark 10:2-16]

**The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

**Theme: *Jesus experiences our life to rescue us***

**Invocation** Making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Amen.**

**Apostle's Creed**

**Learn By Heart Verse:**

**Romans 6: 23** The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Catechism:**

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| <b>Review of the Ten Commandments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Pre K +        |
| <b>Meanings of the Commandments and The Close of the Ten Commandments</b><br><i>What does God say about all these commandment?</i><br>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) | Second Grade + |
| <i>What does this mean?</i><br>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.                                                                               | Fifth Grade +  |

**Daily Themes for Prayer: First Sunday of the month**

**Sunday:** Pray that the joy of the Resurrection would be seen in us; that the fruits of faith, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, would be evident in us and among us.

**Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of your Baptism; for your calling and daily work; pray for your family members by name. Pray for those you know who are not yet believers in Jesus or who are unchurched that they would come to know and respond to the Savior's love for them.

**Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance in the face of temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those caught in cycle of sinful behavior.

Wed: Pray for marriage and family: that husbands and wives, parents and children live in harmony according to the Word of God; for families devastated by divorce; for parents who must raise children alone.

Thursday: Pray for Christ's Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for the faithful and fruitful use of Word and Sacrament among us.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sharing of the Good News of His death and Resurrection in our neighborhoods and throughout the whole world. Pray for the sick and dying. Pray that you would have compassion for them and their families going through difficult days.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end for His people; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's gifts of Word and Sacrament.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Going with God's Blessing:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

## **Looking ahead to next Divine Service**

Amos 5:6–7,10–15

Heb. 3:12–19

Mark 10:17–22

**Disclaimer:** Scripture passages used in this document are from ESV unless otherwise noted.