

Congregation at Prayer Sept 17, 2017

As sinful humans, we have an odd relationship with the Law. We kick and scream as the Law shows us that our favorite sin is evil and thus we are not the good person we think we are. And then, we really want to look like we are good so we make up rules that we can follow and thus look good to ourselves and others. What is more, we demand others follow our rules. To which, the Holy Spirit kindly reminds us, don't fret the imagined sins and give forgiveness to those repentant of real sins. [Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

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

Theme for the Week: Forgive the real sins and overlook the rest

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

Romans 13:10 (ESV) Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

<p>The Seventh Commandment</p> <p>You shall not steal.</p> <p>The Eighth Commandment</p> <p>You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.</p>	<p>Kindergarten+</p>
<p>The meaning of the Seventh Commandment</p> <p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.</p> <p>The meaning of the Eighth Commandment</p> <p><i>What does this mean?</i> 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.</p>	<p>Third Grade +</p>

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday	Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19
Monday	The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34
Tuesday	The Lord Commands a Census of Israel—Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 45-54
Wednesday	The Levites Are Called to Serve as Priests—Numbers 3:1-16, 39-51

Thursday	The Priestly Blessing—Numbers 6:22-27
Friday	The Second Passover—Numbers 9:1-14
Saturday	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Gracious Lord, in your compassion you seek not the death of the sinner but their repentance. Cause us to see with your eyes and heart so that we may have compassion for our neighbor – to feed them when they are hungry, to clothe them when they are cold, to speak the Law in love, and to console with the Gospel.

Monday: Holy Father, as Solomon asked for wisdom, we too ask that you make us wise so that we may see the Holy Spirit at work in our community and follow where he leads and to love our neighbor as you have called us.

Tuesday: Almighty Lord, You have called your people at Our Savior to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths we have not yet trod, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us.

Wednesday: Gracious Lord Jesus, help us to abide in You and in Your Word, so that by the power of the Spirit at work in us, we may bear fruit for You – the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and a fruitful witness to those we impact through our Words of witness and our compassionate acts of service to our neighbor.

Thursday: Lord Jesus, as You spent time in this world of ours preaching, teaching and healing, so help us to spend time with the people around us bringing them hope, healing and new life in Your name. As we speak with them and as we serve them in Your name, may they come to know You and Your grace in their lives.

Friday: Forgive us, Lord, for the times that we have had good intentions about sharing the Good News with others but have failed miserably because we were more focused on ourselves and our own needs and desires. Forgive us for the times that our efforts to reach others with the Gospel have been more about us than about them.

Saturday: Lord Jesus, You came into our world, not to condemn us, but to save us. You became flesh and blood so that we could see just how much God loves us. Help us to be “flesh and blood” examples of God’s love in our neighborhoods to the people who do not yet know You that they may come to know Your love and mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

Going with God’s Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Isa. 55:6–9

Phil. 1:12–14, 19–30

Matt. 20:1–16