

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
(June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 6<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

#### ***The Civil Realm***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Civil Realm**

Our summer focus on the Table of Duties continues this week, as we turn our attention on the Civil Realm. Of course, even in this realm, those in offices of authority receive their authority from above (from God Himself), as Jesus famously reminded Pilate (John 19:11). But even more, the function and duty of these civil offices of authority is derived from the function and duty of our true Father in heaven, whose serves, protects, and provides for His people. So, it follows, that those who hold offices of civil authority have the God-given duty to serve and protect the lives of those they serve—the citizens. And what do the citizens owe them? Honor and respect. Here the 4th Commandment guides the citizens, who are to “honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.” And so St. Paul can write, even when his governing authority is the evil Nero: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1).

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

#### **The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed**

#### **The Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment**

Therefore, let everyone who allows himself to be advised remember that God is not joking. Know that it is God who speaks with you and demands obedience. If you obey Him, you are His dear child [John 14:23]. But if you despise obedience, then take shame, misery, and grief for your reward. The same should also be said about obedience to civil government. This (as we have said) is all included in the place of fatherhood and extends farthest of all relations. Here “father” is not one person from a single family, but it means the many people the father has as tenants, citizens, or subjects. Through them, as through our parents, God gives to us food, house and home, protection, and security. They bear such a name and title with all honor as their highest dignity that it is our duty to honor them and to value them greatly as the dearest treasure and the most precious jewel upon the earth (LC I 149-150).

| <b>Daily Readings</b> | <b>Catechetical Narrative</b>                          | <b>Second Reading</b> | <b>Psalm</b>     |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>         | <b>Jesus Calls the First Disciples<br/>Luke 5:1-11</b> |                       | <b>Psalm 101</b> |
| <b>Monday</b>         | <b>Submit to Authorities</b>                           | <b>Nehemiah 2</b>     | <b>Psalm 102</b> |

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|                  | <b>Romans 13:1-7</b>                               |  |                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Pray for Authorities<br/>1 Timothy 2:1-3</b>    | <b>Nehemiah 3</b>                                      | <b>Psalms 103</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Be Submissive<br/>Titus 3:1-8</b>               | <b>Nehemiah 4</b>                                      | <b>Psalms 104</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Authorities Sent by God<br/>1 Peter 2:10-17</b> | <b>Nehemiah 5</b>                                      | <b>Psalms 105</b> |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Give to Caesar<br/>Matthew 22:17-22</b>         | <b>Nehemiah 6</b>                                      | <b>Psalms 106</b> |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>The Ten Commandments<br/>Exodus 20:1-17</b>     | <b>Dead to Sin, Alive<br/>to God<br/>Romans 6:1-11</b> | <b>Psalms 107</b> |

### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon - Fri:** What does the day's passage have to say about the role of the civil authorities? What does the day's passage have to say about the role of the citizens? How does the day's passage relate to the meaning of the 4th Commandment? Was the passage written at a time when the civil authorities were Christian, or not? How does this shape our understanding of God's demand to respect our authorities, even if our authorities are in error? Is there a way to express opposition while continuing to honor and respect the office of those who have authority? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Romans 13:1)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Our Country. For Circuit Vacancies:** Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Shelby Maschhoff. **For the Birth of Jason Albers. For Those Who Mourn:** Family and Friends of Kathy Brink (Cousin of Sandy Haun), Family of Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Kim Childress (David Childress' Sister) Marilyn Edwards, Mike Eggerman, Brad Hunt (Vernon & Carolyn's Son-In-Law), Dawna Wander (Friend of Dave Childress), Sherri Williams. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments/Testing:** Eli Kuper, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Baptismal Birthday:** Adam Eggermann (7/3), Thomas Albers (7/5), William Jennings (7/6). **Wedding Anniversary:** Ron & Deb Albers (7/2).

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

**Hymn of the Month:** Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (LSB 585)