

THE TIME OF THE CHURCH

The Season after Pentecost Day

Daily Readings: 2020

Year Two – Ordinary

Our Lord desires that his children, his Church, be drawn together in the unity of truth and in the bonds of affection. Learning to read and speak God’s truth together in the same ways is one path to this. *Taking Gathered Worship Home* (TGWH) has been developed for you to use in the private worship of your home, whether you are married or single, and whether or not you have children. It is a tool to knit us together throughout the church year. While we would encourage the use of the weekly prayer and daily lectionary in its entirety, you are certainly free to adapt these materials to your particular circumstances and personal/family worship time.

The first component listed for each week is a written **prayer** (collect) for your use during that particular week. It generally follows the theme set by the scripture readings used in the Divine Service on that Sunday. These prayers are taken from *The 2007 Lutheran Service Book* (Year A).

The second component of TGWH is the week’s suggested **Bible reading**. The readings are adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer* and the *Book of Common Worship*. They are arranged in a two-year cycle and provide for reading twice through the New Testament and once through much of the Old Testament. The readings reflect the seasons and festivals of the Christian year and come from the Psalter, the Old Testament, the Pastoral Epistles, and the Gospels. Often the readings will be connected thematically, giving us a wonderful way to receive the “whole counsel of God.”

The third component are the 129 questions and answers from the **Heidelberg Catechism** which has been divided into 52 weeks, starting in Advent (December) and concluding at the end of the Church Year (November).

It takes a great deal of planning, discipline, and commitment to form this habit of daily reading and praying, but it is one of inestimable value in our “conforming to the likeness of Christ.” May God use these elements in our private worship to draw us together in unity and affection, for his glory and the building up of his Church.

FIRST WEEK OF PENTECOST, MAY 31, 2020

O God, on this day you once taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 118
Deuteronomy 16:9-12
Acts 4:18-33
John 4:19-26
Evening Psalter – 145

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 41, 52
Ecclesiastes 2:1-15
Galatians 1:1-17
Matthew 13:44-52
Evening Psalter – 44

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 45
Ecclesiastes 2:16-26
Galatians 1:18—2:10
Matthew 13:53-58
Evening Psalter – 47, 48

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:49-72
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Galatians 2:11-21
Matthew 14:1-12
Evening Psalter – 49, 53

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 50
Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:3
Galatians 3:1-14
Matthew 14:13-21
Evening Psalter – 59, 60

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 40, 54
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
Galatians 3:15-22
Matthew 14:22-36
Evening Psalter – 51

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 55
Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
Galatians 3:23—4:11
Matthew 15:1-20
Evening Psalter – 138, 139

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 72. Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

A. No, only the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.^[1]

[1] Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 1:7.

Q. 73. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

A. God speaks in this way for a good reason. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ remove our sins just as water takes away dirt from the body.^[1]

But, even more important, he wants to assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are as truly cleansed from our sins spiritually as we are bodily washed with water.^[2]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:11; Rev. 1:5; 7:14.

[2] Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:27.

Q. 74. Should infants, too, be baptized?

A. Yes. Infants as well as adults belong to God's covenant and congregation.^[1] Through Christ's blood the redemption from sin and the Holy Spirit, who works faith, are promised to them no less than to adults.^[2]

Therefore, by baptism, as sign of the covenant, they must be grafted into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers.^[3] This was done in the old covenant by circumcision,^[4] in place of which baptism was instituted in the new covenant.^[5]

[1] Gen. 17:7; Matt. 19:14.

[2] Ps. 22:11; Is. 44:1-3; Acts 2:38, 39; 16:31.

[3] Acts 10:47; 1 Cor. 7:14.

[4] Gen. 17:9-14.

[5] Col. 2: 11-13.

SECOND WEEK OF PENTECOST, JUNE 7, 2020

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for you, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 75. How does the Lord's Supper signify and seal to you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his gifts?

A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup in remembrance of him. With this command he gave these promises:^[1]

First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup given to me, so surely was his body offered for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross.

Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and the cup of the Lord as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely does he himself nourish and refresh my soul with everlasting life with his crucified body and shed blood.

[1] Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25.

Q. 76. What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink his shed blood?

A. First, to accept with a believing heart all the suffering and the death of Christ, and so receive forgiveness of sins and life eternal.^[1]

Second, to be united more and more to his sacred body through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us.^[2] Therefore, although Christ is in heaven^[3] and we are on earth, yet we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bones,^[4] and we forever live and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.^[5]

[1] John 6:35, 40, 50-54.

[2] John 6:55, 56; 1 Cor. 12:13.

[3] Acts 1:9-11; 3:21; 1 Cor. 11:26; Col. 3:1.

[4] 1 Cor. 6:15, 17; Eph. 5:29, 30; 1 John 4:13.

[5] John 6:56-58; 15:1-6; Eph. 4:15, 16; 1 John 3:24.

77. Q. Where has Christ promised that he will nourish and refresh believers with his body and blood as surely as they eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup?

A. In the institution of the Lord's Supper: The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.^[1] This promise is repeated by Paul where he says: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.^[2]

[1] 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

[2] 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17.

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 146, 147
Job 38:1-11; 42:1-6
Revelation 19:4-16
John 1:29-34
Evening Psalter – 111, 112, 113

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 56, 57
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14
Galatians 4:12-20
Matthew 15:21-28
Evening Psalter – 64, 65

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 61, 62
Ecclesiastes 8:14—9:10
Galatians 4:21-31
Matthew 15:29-39
Evening Psalter – 68

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 72
Ecclesiastes 9:11-18
Galatians 5:1-15
Matthew 16:1-12
Evening Psalter – 119:73-96

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 70, 71
Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
Galatians 5:16-24
Matthew 16:13-20
Evening Psalter – 74

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 69
Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:14
Galatians 5:25—6:10
Matthew 16:21-28
Evening Psalter – 73

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 75, 76
Numbers 3:1-13
Galatians 6:11-18
Matthew 17:1-13
Evening Psalter – 23, 27

THIRD WEEK OF PENTECOST, JUNE 14, 2020

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of your apostles and prophets you have proclaimed to us your saving will. Grant us faith to believe your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 93, 96
Numbers 6:22-27
Acts 13:1-12
Luke 12:41-48
Evening Psalter – 34

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 80
Numbers 9:15-23; 10:29-36
Romans 1:1-15
Matthew 17:14-21
Evening Psalter – 77, 79

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 78:1-39
Numbers 11:1-23
Romans 1:16-27
Matthew 17:22-27
Evening Psalter – 78:40-72

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:97-120
Numbers 11:24-35
Romans 1:28—2:11
Matthew 18:1-9
Evening Psalter – 81, 82

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 83
Numbers 12:1-16
Romans 2:12-24
Matthew 18:10-20
Evening Psalter – 85, 86

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 88
Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30
Romans 2:25—3:8
Matthew 18:21-35
Evening Psalter – 91, 92

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 87, 90
Numbers 13:31—14:25
Romans 3:9-20
Matthew 19:1-12
Evening Psalter – 136

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 78. Are then the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

A. No. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into the blood of Christ and is not the washing away of sins itself but is simply God's sign and pledge,^[1] so also the bread in the Lord's supper does not become the body of Christ itself,^[2] although it is called Christ's body^[3] in keeping with the nature and usage of sacraments.^[4]

[1] Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5.

[2] Matt. 26:26-29.

[3] 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:26-28.

[4] Gen. 17:10, 11; Ex. 12:11, 13; 1 Cor. 10:3, 4; 1 Pet. 3:21.

Q. 79. Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood, and why does Paul speak of a participation in the body and blood of Christ?

A. Christ speaks in this way for a good reason: he wants to teach us by his supper that as bread and wine sustain us in this temporal life, so his crucified body and shed blood are true food and drink for our souls to eternal life.^[1]

But, even more important, he wants to assure us by this visible sign and pledge, first, that through the working of the Holy Spirit we share in his true body and blood as surely as we receive with our mouth these holy signs in remembrance of Him,^[2] and, second, that all his suffering and obedience are as certainly ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins.^[3]

[1] John 6:51, 55.

[2] 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:26.

[3] Rom. 6:5-11.

FOURTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JUNE 21, 2020

O God, because your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 80. What difference is there between the Lord's Supper and the papal mass?

A. The Lord's Supper testifies to us, first, that we have complete forgiveness of all our sins through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself accomplished on the cross once for all;^[1] and, second, that through the Holy Spirit we are grafted into Christ,^[2] who with his true body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father,^[3] and this is where he wants to be worshipped.^[4]

But the mass teaches, first, that the living and the dead do not have forgiveness of sins through the suffering of Christ unless he is still offered for them daily by the priests; and, second, that Christ is bodily present in the form of bread and wine, and there is to be worshipped. Therefore the mass is basically nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ, and an accursed idolatry.

[1] Matt. 26:28; John 19:30; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25, 26; 10:10-18. [2] 1 Cor. 6:17; 10:16, 17.

[3] John 20:17; Acts 7:55, 56; Heb. 1:3; 8:1.

[4] John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1; 1 Thess. 1:10.

81. Q. Who are to come to the table of the Lord?

A. Those who are truly displeased with themselves because of their sins and yet trust that these are forgiven them and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life. But hypocrites and those who do not repent eat and drink judgment upon themselves.^[1]

[1] 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32.

Q. 82. Are those also to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who by their confession and life show that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

A. No, for then the covenant of God would be profaned and his wrath kindled against the whole congregation.^[1] Therefore, according to the command of Christ and his apostles, the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such persons by the keys of the kingdom of heaven, until they amend their lives.

[1] Ps. 50:16; Is. 1:11-17; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 66, 67
Numbers 14:26-45
Acts 15:1-12
Luke 12:49-56
Evening Psalter – 19, 46

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 89:1-18
Numbers 16:1-19
Romans 3:21-31
Matthew 19:13-22
Evening Psalter – 89:19-52

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 97, 99, 100
Numbers 16:20-35
Romans 4:1-12
Matthew 19:23-30
Evening Psalter – 94, 95

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 101, 109
Numbers 16:36-50
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 20:1-16
Evening Psalter – 119:121-144

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 105:1-22
Numbers 17:1-11
Romans 5:1-11
Matthew 20:17-28
Evening Psalter – 105:23-45

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 102
Numbers 20:1-13
Romans 5:12-21
Matthew 20:29-34
Evening Psalter – 107:1-32

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 107:33-43; 108
Numbers 20:14-29
Romans 6:1-11
Matthew 21:1-11
Evening Psalter – 33

FIFTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JUNE 28, 2020

Almighty God, by the working of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear your word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 118
Numbers 21:4-9, 21-35
Acts 17:12-34
Luke 13:10-17
Evening Psalter – 145

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 106:1-18
Numbers 22:1-21
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 21:12-22
Evening Psalter – 106:19-48

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 120, 121, 122, 123
Numbers 22:21-38
Romans 7:1-12
Matthew 21:23-32
Evening Psalter – 124, 125, 126, 127

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:145-176
Numbers 22:41—23:12
Romans 7:13-25
Matthew 21:33-46
Evening Psalter – 128, 129, 130

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 131, 132, 133
Numbers 23:11-26
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 22:1-14
Evening Psalter – 134, 135

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 140, 142
Numbers 24:1-13
Romans 8:12-17
Matthew 22:15-22
Evening Psalter – 141, 143

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 137, 144
Numbers 24:12-25
Romans 8:18-25
Matthew 22:23-40
Evening Psalter – 104

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 83. What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

A. The preaching of the holy gospel and church discipline. By these two the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers and closed to unbelievers.^[1]

[1] Matt. 16:19; John 20:21-23.

Q. 84. How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by the preaching of the gospel?

A. According to the command of Christ, the kingdom of heaven is opened when it is proclaimed and publicly testified to each and every believer that God has really forgiven all their sins for the sake of Christ's merits, as often as they by true faith accept the promise of the gospel.

The kingdom of heaven is closed when it is proclaimed and testified to all unbelievers and hypocrites that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them as long as they do not repent. According to this testimony of the gospel, God will judge both in this life and in the life to come.^[1]

[1] Matt. 16:19; John 3:31-36; 20:21-23.

SIXTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JULY 5, 2020

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, your mercy attends us all in our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us your promised rest and the full joys of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 86. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace alone through Christ, without any merit of our own, why must we yet do good works?

A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Holy Spirit to be his image, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves thankful to God for his benefits,^[1] and he may be praised by us.^[2] Further, that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by its fruits,^[3] and that by our godly walk of life we may win our neighbors for Christ.^[4]

[1] Rom. 6:13; 12:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10.

[2] Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

[3] Matt. 7:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:10, 11.

[4] Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1, 2.

Q. 87. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent walk of life?

A. By no means. Scripture says that no unchaste person, idolater, adulterer, thief, greedy person, drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like shall inherit the kingdom of God.^[1]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5, 6; 1 John 3:14.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 146, 147
Numbers 27:12-23
Acts 19:11-20
Mark 1:14-20
Evening Psalter – 111, 112, 113

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 1, 2, 3
Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27
Romans 8:26-30
Matthew 23:1-12
Evening Psalter – 4, 7

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 5, 6
Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34
Romans 8:31-39
Matthew 23:13-26
Evening Psalter – 10, 11

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:1-24
Deuteronomy 1:1-18
Romans 9:1-18
Matthew 23:27-39
Evening Psalter – 12, 13, 14

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 18:1-19
Deuteronomy 3:18-28
Romans 9:19-33
Matthew 24:1-14
Evening Psalter – 18:20-50

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 16, 17
Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24—32:4
Romans 10:1-13
Matthew 24:15-31
Evening Psalter – 22

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 20, 21
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Romans 10:14-21
Matthew 24:32-51
Evening Psalter – 110, 116, 117

SEVENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JULY 12, 2020

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 148, 149, 150
Joshua 1:1-18
Acts 21:3-15
Mark 1:21-27
Evening Psalter – 114, 115

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 25
Joshua 2:1-14
Romans 11:1-12
Matthew 25:1-13
Evening Psalter – 9, 15

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 26, 28
Joshua 2:15-24
Romans 11:13-24
Matthew 25:14-30
Evening Psalter – 36, 39

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 38
Joshua 3:1-13
Romans 11:25-36
Matthew 25:31-46
Evening Psalter – 119:25-48

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 37:1-17
Joshua 3:14—4:7
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 26:1-16
Evening Psalter – 37:18-40

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 31
Joshua 4:19—5:1, 10-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 26:17-25
Evening Psalter – 35

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 30, 32
Joshua 6:1-14
Romans 13:1-7
Matthew 26:26-35
Evening Psalter – 42, 43

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 88. What is the true repentance or conversion of man?

A. It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new.^[1]

[1] Rom. 6:1-11; 1 Cor. 5:7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10.

Q. 89. What is the dying of the old nature?

A. It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin, and more and more to hate it and flee from it.^[1]

[1] Ps. 51:3, 4, 17; Joel 2:12, 13; Rom. 8:12, 13; 2 Cor. 7:10.

Q. 90. What is the coming to life of the new nature?

A. It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ,^[1] and a love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works.^[2]

[1] Ps. 51:8, 12; Is. 57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17.

[2] Rom. 6:10, 11; Gal. 2:20.

91. Q. But what are good works?

A. Only those which are done out of true faith,^[1] in accordance with the law of God,^[2] and to his glory,^[3] and not those based on our own opinion or on precepts of men.^[4]

[1] John 15:5; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6.

[2] Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10.

[3] 1 Cor. 10:31.

[4] Deut. 12:32; Is. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18, 19; Matt. 15:7-9.

EIGHTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JULY 19, 2020

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 92. What is the law of the LORD?

A. God spoke all these words, saying:

1) I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. 2) You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 3) You shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his Name in vain. 4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. 5) Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you. 6) You shall not kill. 7) You shall not commit adultery. 8) You shall not steal. 9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.^[1]

[1] Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21.

Q. 93. How are these commandments divided?

A. Into two parts. The first teaches us how to live in relation to God; the second, what duties we owe our neighbor.^[1]

[1] Matt. 22:37-40.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 63, 98
Joshua 6:15-27
Acts 22:30—23:11
Mark 2:1-12
Evening Psalter – 103

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 41, 52
Joshua 7:1-13
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 26:36-46
Evening Psalter – 44

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 45
Joshua 8:1-22
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 26:47-56
Evening Psalter – 47, 48

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:49-72
Joshua 8:30-35
Romans 14:13-23
Matthew 26:57-68
Evening Psalter – 49, 53

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 50
Joshua 9:3-21
Romans 15:1-13
Matthew 26:69-75
Evening Psalter – 59, 60

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 40, 54
Joshua 9:22—10:15
Romans 15:14-24
Matthew 27:1-10
Evening Psalter – 51

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 55
Joshua 23:1-16
Romans 15:25-33
Matthew 27:11-23
Evening Psalter – 138, 139

NINTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, JULY 26, 2020

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what you have promised, we may love what you have commanded; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 24, 29
Joshua 24:1-15
Acts 28:23-31
Mark 2:23-28
Evening Psalter – 8, 84

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 56, 57, 58
Joshua 24:16-33
Romans 16:1-16
Matthew 27:24-31
Evening Psalter – 64, 65

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 61, 62
Judges 2:1-5, 11-23
Romans 16:17-27
Matthew 27:32-44
Evening Psalter – 68

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 72
Judges 3:12-30
Acts 1:1-14
Matthew 27:45-54
Evening Psalter – 119:73-96

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 70, 71
Judges 4:4-23
Acts 1:15-26
Matthew 27:55-66
Evening Psalter – 74

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 69
Judges 5:1-18
Acts 2:1-21
Matthew 28:1-10
Evening Psalter – 73

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 75, 76
Judges 5:19-31
Acts 2:22-36
Matthew 28:11-20
Evening Psalter – 23, 27

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 94. What does the LORD require in the first commandment?

A. That for the sake of my very salvation I avoid and flee all idolatry,^[1] witchcraft, superstition,^[2] and prayer to saints or to other creatures.^[3] Further, that I rightly come to know the only true God.^[4] trust in him alone,^[5] submit to with all humility^[6] and patience,^[7] expect all good from him only,^[8] and love,^[9] fear,^[10] and honor Him^[11] with all my heart. In short, that I forsake all creatures rather than do the least thing against his will.^[12]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; 10:5-14; 1 John 5:21.

[2] Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12.

[3] Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8, 9.

[4] John 17:3.

[5] Jer. 17:5, 7.

[6] 1 Pet. 5:5, 6.

[7] Rom. 5:3, 4; 1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14; Col. 1:11; Heb. 10:36.

[8] Ps. 104:27, 28; Is. 45:7; James 1:17.

[9] Deut. 6:5; (Matt. 22:37).

[10] Deut. 6:2; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Matt. 10:28; 1 Pet. 1:17.

[11] Deut. 6:13; (Matt. 4:10); Deut. 10:20.

[12] Matt. 5:29, 30; 10:37-39; Acts 5:29.

Q. 95. What is idolatry?

A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which to put our trust instead of, or in addition to, the only true God who has revealed himself in his Word.^[1]

[1] 1 Chron. 16:26; Gal. 4:8, 9; Eph. 5:5; Phil. 3:19.

Q. 96. What does God require in the second commandment?

A. We are not to make an image of God in any way,^[1] nor to worship him in any other manner than he has commanded in his Word.^[2]

[1] Deut. 4:15-19; Is. 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:23.

[2] Lev. 10:1-7; Deut. 12:30; 1 Sam. 15:22, 23; Matt. 15:9; John 4:23, 24.

Q. 97. May we then not make any image at all?

A. God cannot and may not be visibly portrayed in any way. Creatures may be portrayed, but God forbids us to make or have any images of them in order to worship them or to serve God through them.^[1]

[1] Ex. 34:13, 14, 17; Num. 33:52; 2 Kings 18:4, 5; Is. 40:25.

TENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 2, 2020

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve your goodness, still you provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your gifts, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 98. But may images not be tolerated in the churches as “books for the laity”?

A. No, for we should not be wiser than God. He wants his people to be taught not by means of dumb images^[1] but by the living preaching of his Word.^[2]

[1] Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18-20.

[2] Rom. 10:14, 15, 17; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:19.

Q. 99. What is required in the third commandment?

A. We are not to blaspheme or to abuse the Name of God by cursing,^[1] perjury,^[2] or unnecessary oaths,^[3] nor to share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.^[4]

In short, we must use the holy Name of God only with fear and reverence,^[5] so that we may rightly confess Him,^[6] call upon Him,^[7] and praise him in all our words and works.^[8]

[1] Lev. 24:10-17.

[2] Lev. 19:12

[3] Matt. 5:37; James 5:12.

[4] Lev. 5:1; Prov. 29:24.

[5] Ps. 99:1-5; Is. 45:23; Jer. 4:2.

[6] Matt. 10:32, 33; Rom. 10:9, 10.

[7] Ps. 50:14, 15; 1 Tim. 2:8.

[8] Rom. 2:24; Col. 3:17; 1 Tim. 6:1.

Q. 100. Is the blaspheming of God’s Name by swearing and cursing such a grievous sin that God is angry also with those who do not prevent and forbid it as much as they can?

A. Certainly,^[1] for no sin is greater or provokes God’s wrath more than the blaspheming of his Name. That is why he commanded it to be punished with death.^[2]

[1] Lev. 5:1. [2] Lev. 24:16.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 93, 96
Judges 6:1-24
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mark 3:20-30
Evening Psalter – 34

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 80
Judges 6:25-40
Acts 2:37-47
John 1:1-18
Evening Psalter – 77, 79

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 78:1-39
Judges 7:1-18
Acts 3:1-10
John 1:19-28
Evening Psalter – 78:40-72

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:97-120
Judges 7:19—8:12
Acts 3:11-26
John 1:29-42
Evening Psalter – 81, 82

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 83
Judges 8:22-35
Acts 4:1-12
John 1:43-51
Evening Psalter – 85, 86

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 88
Judges 9:1-21
Acts 4:13-31
John 2:1-12
Evening Psalter – 91, 92

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 87, 90
Judges 9:22-25, 50-57
Acts 4:32—5:11
John 2:13-25
Evening Psalter – 136

ELEVENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 9, 2020

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 66, 67
Judges 11:1-11, 29-40
2 Corinthians 11:21b-31
Mark 4:35-41
Evening Psalter – 19, 46

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 89:1-18
Judges 12:1-7
Acts 5:12-26
John 3:1-21
Evening Psalter – 89:19-52

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 97, 99, 100
Judges 13:1-14
Acts 5:27-42
John 3:22-36
Evening Psalter – 94, 95

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 101, 109
Judges 13:15-25
Acts 6:1-15
John 4:1-26
Evening Psalter – 119:121-144

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 105:1-22
Judges 14:1-19
Acts 6:15—7:16
John 4:27-42
Evening Psalter – 105:23-45

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 102
Judges 14:20—15:20
Acts 7:17-29
John 4:43-54
Evening Psalter – 107:1-32

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 107:33-43; 108
Judges 16:1-14
Acts 7:30-43
John 5:1-18
Evening Psalter – 33

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 101. But may we swear an oath by the Name of God in a godly manner?

A. Yes, when the government demands it of its subjects, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote fidelity and truth, to God's glory and for our neighbor's good.

Such oath-taking is based on God's Word^[1] and was therefore rightly used by saints in the Old and the New Testament.^[2]

[1] Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jer. 4:1, 2; Heb. 6:16.

[2] Gen. 21:24; 31:53; Josh. 9:15; 1 Sam. 24:22; 1 Kings 1:29, 30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23.

Q. 102. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?

A. No. A lawful oath is a calling upon God, who alone knows the heart, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely.^[1] No creature is worthy of such honor.^[2]

[1] Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23.

[2] Matt. 5:34-37; 23:16-22; James 5:12.

TWELFTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 16, 2020

Almighty and everlasting Father, you give your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 103. What does God require in the fourth commandment?

A. First, that the ministry of the gospel and the schools be maintained^[1] and that, especially on the day of rest, I diligently attend the church of God^[2] to hear God's Word,^[3] to use the sacraments,^[4] to call publicly upon the LORD,^[5] and to give Christian offerings for the poor.^[6]

Second, that all the days of my life I rest from my evil works, let the LORD work in me through his Holy Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal sabbath.^[7]

[1] Deut. 6:4-9; 20-25; 1 Cor. 9:13, 14; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:13-17; Tit. 1:5.

[2] Deut. 12:5-12; Ps. 40:9, 10; 68:26; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25.

[3] Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Cor. 14:26-33; 1 Tim. 4:13.

[4] 1 Cor. 11:23, 24.

[5] Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:1.

[6] Ps. 50:14; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8 and 9.

[7] Is. 66:23; Heb. 4:9-11.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 118
Judges 16:15-31
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Mark 5:25-34
Evening Psalter – 145

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 106:1-18
Judges 17:1-13
Acts 7:44—8:1a
John 5:19-29
Evening Psalter – 106:19-48

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 120, 121, 122, 123
Judges 18:1-15
Acts 8:1-13
John 5:30-47
Evening Psalter – 124, 125, 126, 127

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:145-176
Judges 18:16-31; 21:25
Acts 8:14-25
John 6:1-15
Evening Psalter – 128, 129, 130

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 131, 132, 133
Job 1:1-22
Acts 8:26-40
John 6:16-27
Evening Psalter – 134, 135

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 140, 142
Job 2:1-13
Acts 9:1-9
John 6:27-40
Evening Psalter – 141, 143

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 137, 144
Job 3:1-26
Acts 9:10-19a
John 6:41-51
Evening Psalter – 104

THIRTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 23, 2020

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 146, 147
Job 4:1-21
Revelation 4:1-11
Mark 6:1-6a
Evening Psalter – 111, 112, 113

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 1, 2, 3
Job 4:1, 5:1-27
Acts 9:19b-31
John 6:52-59
Evening Psalter – 4, 7

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 5, 6
Job 6:1-21
Acts 9:32-43
John 6:60-71
Evening Psalter – 10, 11

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:1-24
Job 6:1, 7:1-21
Acts 10:1-16
John 7:1-13
Evening Psalter – 12, 13, 14

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 18:1-19
Job 8:1-22
Acts 10:17-33
John 7:14-36
Evening Psalter – 18:20-50

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 16, 17
Job 9:1-35
Acts 10:34-48
John 7:37-52
Evening Psalter – 22

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 20, 21
Job 9:1, 10:1-22
Acts 11:1-18
John 8:12-20
Evening Psalter – 110, 116, 117

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 104. What does God require in the fifth commandment?

A. That I show all honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all those in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to their good instruction and discipline,^[1] and also have patience with their weaknesses and shortcomings,^[2] since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.^[3]

[1] Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1, 2; Eph. 5:21, 22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1.

[2] Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18.

[3] Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21.

FOURTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 30, 2020

Almighty God, your son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 105. What does God require in the sixth commandment?

A. I am not to dishonor, hate, injure, or kill my neighbor by thoughts, words, or gestures, and much less by deeds, whether personally or through another;^[1] rather, I am to put away all desire of revenge.^[2]

Moreover, I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself.^[3]

Therefore, also, the government bears the sword to prevent murder.^[4]

[1] Gen. 9:6; Lev. 19:17, 18; Matt. 5:21, 22; 26:52.

[2] Prov. 25:21, 22; Matt. 18:35; Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:26.

[3] Matt. 4:7; 26:52; Rom. 13:11-14.

[4] Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14; Rom. 13:4.

Q. 106. But does this commandment speak only of killing?

A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder, such as envy, hatred, anger, and desire of revenge,^[1] and that he regards all these as murder.^[2]

[1] Prov. 14:30; Rom. 1:29; 12:19; Gal. 5:19-21; James 1:20; 1 John 2:9-11.

[2] 1 John 3:15.

Q. 107. Is it enough, then, that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way?

A. No. When God condemns envy, hatred, and anger, he commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves,^[1] to show patience, peace, gentleness, mercy, and friendliness toward him,^[2] to protect him from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.^[3]

[1] Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom. 12:10.

[2] Matt. 5:5; Luke 6:36; Rom. 12:10, 18; Gal. 6:1, 2; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:8.

[3] Ex. 23:4, 5; Matt. 5:44, 45; Rom. 12:20.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 148, 149, 150
Job 11:1-20
Revelation 5:1-14
Matthew 5:1-12
Evening Psalter – 114, 115

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 25
Job 12:1-6, 13-25
Acts 11:19-30
John 8:21-32
Evening Psalter – 9, 15

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 26, 28
Job 12:1-8
Acts 12:1-17
John 8:33-47
Evening Psalter – 36, 39

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 38
Job 12:1; 14:1-22
Acts 12:18-25
John 8:47-59
Evening Psalter – 119:25-48

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 37:1-17
Job 16:16-22; 17:1, 13-16
Acts 13:1-12
John 9:1-17
Evening Psalter – 37:18-40

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 31
Job 19:1-7, 14-27
Acts 13:13-25
John 9:18-41
Evening Psalter – 35

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 30, 32
Job 22:1-4, 21—23:7
Acts 13:26-43
John 10:1-18
Evening Psalter – 42, 43

FIFTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, your humble servants, your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 63, 98
Job 25:1-6; 27:1-6
Revelation 14:1-7, 13
Matthew 5:13-20
Evening Psalter – 103

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 41, 52
Job 32:1-10, 19—33:1, 19-28
Acts 13:44-52
John 10:19-30
Evening Psalter – 44

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 45
Job 29:1-20
Acts 14:1-18
John 10:31-42
Evening Psalter – 47, 48

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:49-72
Job 29:1; 30:1-2, 16-31
Acts 14:19-28
John 11:1-16
Evening Psalter – 49, 53

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 50
Job 29:1; 31:1-23
Acts 15:1-11
John 11:17-29
Evening Psalter – 59, 60

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 40, 54
Job 29:1; 31:24-40
Acts 15:12-21
John 11:30-44
Evening Psalter – 51

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 55
Job 38:1-17
Acts 15:22-35
John 11:45-54
Evening Psalter – 138, 139

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 108. What does the seventh commandment teach us?

A. That all unchastity is cursed by God.^[1] We must therefore detest it from the heart^[2] and live chaste and disciplined lives, both within and outside of holy marriage.^[3]

[1] Lev. 18:30; Eph. 5:3-5.

[2] Jude 22, 23.

[3] 1 Cor. 7:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4.

Q. 109. Does God in this commandment forbid nothing more than adultery and similar shameful sins?

A. Since we, body and soul, are temples of the Holy Spirit, it is God's will that we keep ourselves pure and holy. Therefore he forbids all unchaste acts, gestures, words, thoughts, desires,^[1] and whatever may entice us to unchastity.^[2]

[1] Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Eph. 5:3, 4.

[2] 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:18.

SIXTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of your Church especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 110. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A. God forbids not only outright theft and robbery^[1] but also such wicked schemes and devices as false weights and measures, deceptive merchandising, counterfeit money, and usury;^[2] we must not defraud our neighbor in any way, whether by force or by show of right.^[3]

In addition God forbids all greed^[4] and all abuse or squandering of his gifts.^[5]

[1] Ex. 22:1; 1 Cor. 5:9, 10; 6:9, 10.

[2] Deut. 25:13-16; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 12:22; Ezek. 45:9-12; Luke 6:35.

[3] Mic. 6:9-11; Luke 3:14; James 5:1-6.

[4] Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5.

[5] Prov. 21:20; 23:20, 21; Luke 16:10-13.

Q. 111. What does God require of you in this commandment?

A. I must promote my neighbor's good wherever I can and may, deal with him as I would like others to deal with me, and work faithfully so that I may be able to give to those in need.^[1]

[1] Is. 58:5-10; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:9, 10; Eph. 4:28.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 24, 29
Job 38:1, 18-41
Revelation 18:1-8
Matthew 5:21-26
Evening Psalter – 8, 84

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 56, 57, 58
Job 40:1-24
Acts 15:36—16:5
John 11:55—12:8
Evening Psalter – 64, 65

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 61, 62
Job 40:1; 41:1-11
Acts 16:6-15
John 12:9-19
Evening Psalter – 68

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 72
Job 42:1-17
Acts 16:16-24
John 12:20-26
Evening Psalter – 119:73-96

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 70, 71
Job 28:1-28
Acts 16:25-40
John 12:27-36a
Evening Psalter – 74

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 69
Esther 1:1-4, 10-22
Acts 17:1-15
John 12:36b-43
Evening Psalter – 73

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 75, 76
Esther 2:1-11, 15-23
Acts 17:16-34
John 12:44-50
Evening Psalter – 23, 27

SEVENTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before you relying on anything we have done, help us trust in your abiding grace and live according to your Word; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 93, 96
Esther 3:1—4:3
James 1:19-27
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Evening Psalter – 34

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 80
Esther 4:4-17
Acts 18:1-11
Luke 1:1-4; 3:1-14
Evening Psalter – 77, 79

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 78:1-39
Esther 5:1-14
Acts 18:12-28
Luke 3:15-22
Evening Psalter – 78:40-72

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:97-120
Esther 6:1-14
Acts 19:1-10
Luke 4:1-13
Evening Psalter – 81, 82

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 83
Esther 7:1-10
Acts 19:11-20
Luke 4:14-30
Evening Psalter – 85, 86

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 88
Esther 8:1-17
Acts 19:21-41
Luke 4:31-37
Evening Psalter – 91, 92

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 87, 90
Esther 9:1-32
Acts 20:1-16
Luke 4:38-44
Evening Psalter – 136

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 112. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. I must not give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor condemn or join in condemning anyone rashly and unheard.^[1]

Rather, I must avoid all lying and deceit as the devil's own works, under penalty of God's heavy wrath.^[2] In court and everywhere else, I must love the truth,^[3] speak and confess it honestly, and do what I can to defend and promote my neighbor's honor and reputation.^[4]

[1] Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5, 9; 21:28; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32.

[2] Lev. 19:11, 12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8.

[3] 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25.

[4] 1 Pet. 3:8, 9; 4:8.

Q. 113. What does the tenth commandment require of us?

A. That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any of God's commandments should ever arise in our heart. Rather, we should always hate all sin with all our heart, and delight in all righteousness.^[1]

[1] Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23, 24; Rom. 7:7, 8.

EIGHTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Almighty God, you exalted your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 114. But can those converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience.^[1]

Nevertheless, with earnest purpose they do begin to live not only according to some but to all the commandments of God.^[2]

[1] Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14, 15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8.

[2] Ps. 1:1, 2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16.

Q. 115. If in this life no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, why does God have them preached so strictly?

A. First, that throughout our life we may more and more become aware of our sinful nature, and therefore seek more eagerly the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ.^[1]

Second, that we may be zealous for good deeds and constantly pray to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that he may more and more renew us after God's image, until after this life we reach the goal of perfection.^[2]

[1] Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24, 25; 1 John 1:9.

[2] 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 66, 67
Hosea 1:1—2:1
James 3:1-13
Matthew 13:44-52
Evening Psalter – 19, 46

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 89:1-18
Hosea 2:2-15
Acts 20:17-38
Luke 5:1-11
Evening Psalter – 89:19-52

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 97, 99, 100
Hosea 2:16-23
Acts 21:1-14
Luke 5:12-26
Evening Psalter – 94, 95

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 101, 109
Hosea 3:1-5
Acts 21:15-26
Luke 5:27-39
Evening Psalter – 119:121-144

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 105:1-22
Hosea 4:1-11
Acts 21:27-36
Luke 6:1-11
Evening Psalter – 105:23-45

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 102
Hosea 4:12-19
Acts 21:37—22:16
Luke 6:12-26
Evening Psalter – 107:1-32

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 107:33-43; 108
Hosea 5:1-7
Acts 22:17-29
Luke 6:27-38
Evening Psalter – 33

NINETEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, OCTOBER 4, 2020

Gracious God, you gave your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed him. Forgive us when we reject your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 118
Hosea 5:8—6:6
1 Corinthians 2:6-16
Matthew 14:1-12
Evening Psalter – 145

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 106:1-18
Hosea 6:7—7:7
Acts 22:30—23:11
Luke 6:39-49
Evening Psalter – 106:19-48

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 120, 121, 122, 123
Hosea 7:8-16
Acts 23:12-24
Luke 7:1-17
Evening Psalter – 124, 125, 126, 127

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:145-176
Hosea 8:1-14
Acts 23:23-35
Luke 7:18-35
Evening Psalter – 128, 129, 130

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 131, 132, 133
Hosea 9:1-9
Acts 24:1-23
Luke 7:36-50
Evening Psalter – 134, 135

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 140, 142
Hosea 9:10-17
Acts 24:24—25:12
Luke 8:1-15
Evening Psalter – 141, 143

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 137, 144
Hosea 10:1-15
Acts 25:13-27
Luke 8:16-25
Evening Psalter – 104

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 116. Why is prayer necessary for Christians?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness which God requires of us.^[1] Moreover, God will give his grace and the Holy Spirit only to those who constantly and with heartfelt longing ask him for these gifts and thank him for them.^[2]

[1] Ps. 50:14, 15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18.

[2] Matt. 7:7, 8; Luke 11:9-13.

Q. 117. What belongs to a prayer which pleases God and is heard by Him?

A. First, we must from the heart call upon the one true God only, who has revealed himself in his Word, for all that he has commanded us to pray.^[1]

Second, we must thoroughly know our need and misery, so that we may humble ourselves before God.^[2]

Third, we must rest on this firm foundation that, although we do not deserve it, God will certainly hear our prayer for the sake of Christ our Lord, as he has promised us in his Word.^[3]

[1] Ps. 145:18-20; John 4:22-24; Rom. 8:26, 27; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14, 15; Rev. 19:10.

[2] 2 Chron. 7:14; 20:12; Ps. 2:11; 34:18; 62:8; Is. 66:2; Rev. 4.

[3] Dan. 9:17-19; Matt. 7:8; John 14:13, 14; 16:23; Rom. 10:13; James 1:6.

Q. 118. What has God commanded us to ask of Him?

A. All the things we need for body and soul,^[1] as included in the prayer which Christ our Lord himself taught us.

[1] Matt. 6:33; James 1:17.

Q. 119. What is the Lord's Prayer?

A. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.^[1]

[1] Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4.

TWENTIETH WEEK OF PENTECOST, OCTOBER 11, 2020

Almighty God, you invited us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 120. Why has Christ commanded us to address God as Our Father?

A. To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer that childlike reverence and trust toward God which should be basic to our prayer: God has become our Father through Christ and will much less deny us what we ask of him in faith than our fathers would refuse us earthly things.^[1]

[1] Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13.

Q. 121. Why is there added, who art in heaven?

A. These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty in an earthly manner,^[1] and to expect from his almighty power all things we need for body and soul.^[2]

[1] Jer.23:23,24; Acts 17:24, 25.

[2] Mt.6:25-34; Rom.8:31,32.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 146, 147
Hosea 11:1-11
1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Matthew 15:21-28
Evening Psalter – 111, 112, 113

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 1, 2, 3
Hosea 11:12—12:1
Acts 26:1-23
Luke 8:26-39
Evening Psalter – 4, 7

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 5, 6
Hosea 12:2-14
Acts 26:24—27:8
Luke 8:40-56
Evening Psalter – 10, 11

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:1-24
Hosea 13:1-3
Acts 27:9-26
Luke 9:1-17
Evening Psalter – 12, 13, 14

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 18:1-19
Hosea 13:4-8
Acts 27:27-44
Luke 9:18-27
Evening Psalter – 18:20-50

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 16, 17
Hosea 13:9-16
Acts 28:1-16
Luke 9:28-36
Evening Psalter – 22

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 20, 21
Hosea 14:1-9
Acts 28:17-31
Luke 9:37-50
Evening Psalter – 110, 116, 117

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF PENTECOST, OCTOBER 18, 2020

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, have mercy on us that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 148, 149, 150
Micah 1:1-9
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Matthew 16:13-20
Evening Psalter – 114, 115

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 25
Micah 2:1-13
Revelation 7:1-8
Luke 9:51-62
Evening Psalter – 9, 15

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 26, 28
Micah 3:1-8
Revelation 7:9-17
Luke 10:1-16
Evening Psalter – 36, 39

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 38
Micah 3:9—4:5
Revelation 8:1-13
Luke 10:17-24
Evening Psalter – 119:25-48

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 37:1-17
Micah 5:1-15
Revelation 9:1-12
Luke 10:25-37
Evening Psalter – 37:18-40

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 31
Micah 6:1-8
Revelation 9:13-21
Luke 10:38-42
Evening Psalter – 35

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 30, 32
Micah 7:1-7
Revelation 10:1-11
Luke 11:1-13
Evening Psalter – 42, 43

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 122. What is the first petition?

A. Hallowed be thy Name. That is: Grant us first of all that we may rightly know thee,^[1] and sanctify, glorify, and praise thee in all thy works, in which shine forth thy almighty power, wisdom, goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth.^[2]

Grant us also that we may so direct our whole life—our thoughts, words, and actions—that thy Name is not blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.^[3]

[1] Jer. 9:23, 24; 31: 33, 34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3.

[2] Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75; Rom. 11: 33-36.

[3] Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16.

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK OF PENTECOST, OCTOBER 25, 2020

O God, you have commanded us to love you above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in your sight, that our faith in you may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 123. What is the second petition?

A. Thy kingdom come. That is: So rule us by thy Word and Spirit that more and more we submit to thee.^[1]

Preserve and increase thy church.^[2]

Destroy the works of the devil, every power that raises itself against thee, and every conspiracy against thy holy Word.^[3]

Do all this until the fullness of thy kingdom comes, wherein thou shalt be all in all.^[4]

[1] Ps. 119:5, 105; 143:10; Matt. 6:33.

[2] Ps. 51:18; 122:6-9; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47.

[3] Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8.

[4] Rom. 8:22, 23; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 22: 17, 20.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 63, 98
Jonah 1:1-17a
1 Corinthians 10:15-24
Matthew 18:15-20
Evening Psalter – 103

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 41, 52
Jonah 1:17—2:10
Revelation 11:1-14
Luke 11:14-26
Evening Psalter – 44

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 45
Jonah 3:1—4:11
Revelation 11:14-19
Luke 11:27-36
Evening Psalter – 47, 48

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:49-72
Nahum 1:1-14
Revelation 12:1-6
Luke 11:37-52
Evening Psalter – 49, 53

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 50
Nahum 1:15—2:12
Revelation 12:7-17
Luke 11:53—12:12
Evening Psalter – 103

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 40, 54
Nahum 2:13—3:7
Revelation 13:1-10
Luke 12:13-31
Evening Psalter – 51

REFORMATION DAY

Morning Psalter – 46
Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36
Evening Psalter – 34

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK OF PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Merciful and gracious Lord, you cause your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Morning Psalter – 24, 29
Revelation 7:2-17
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12
Evening Psalter – 8, 84

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 56, 57, 58
Zephaniah 1:7-13
Revelation 14:1-13
Luke 12:49-59
Evening Psalter – 64, 65

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 111, 112
Isaiah 26:1-21
Revelation 21:9—22:5
Matthew 5:1-12
Evening Psalter – 148, 150

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 72
Zephaniah 2:1-15
Revelation 16:1-11
Luke 13:10-17
Evening Psalter – 119:73-96

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 70, 71
Zephaniah 3:1-7
Revelation 16:12-21
Luke 13:18-30
Evening Psalter – 74

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 69
Zephaniah 3:8-13
Revelation 17:1-18
Luke 13:31-35
Evening Psalter – 73

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 75, 76
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Revelation 18:1-14
Luke 14:1-11
Evening Psalter – 23, 27

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 124. What is the third petition?

A. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

That is: Grant that we and all men may deny our own will, and without any murmuring obey thy will, for it alone is good.^[1]

Grant also that everyone may carry out the duties of his office and calling^[2] as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.^[3]

[1] Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1, 2; Tit. 2:11, 12.

[2] 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9.

[3] Ps. 103:20, 21.

TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son to lead home his bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into his eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 125. What is the fourth petition?

A. Give us this day our daily bread.

That is: provide us with all our bodily needs^[1] so that we may acknowledge that thou art the only fountain of all good,^[2] and that our care and labor, and also thy gifts, cannot do us any good without thy blessing.^[3]

Grant therefore that we may withdraw our trust from all creatures, and place it only in Thee.^[4]

[1] Ps. 104:27-30; 145:15, 16; Matt. 6:25-34.

[2] Acts 14:17; 17:25; James 1:17.

[3] Deut. 8:3; Ps. 37:16; 127:1, 2; 1 Cor. 15:58.

[4] Ps. 55:22; 62; 146; Jer. 17:5-8; Heb. 13:5, 6.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 93, 96
Joel 1:1-14
1 Corinthians 14:1-12
Matthew 20:1-16
Evening Psalter – 34

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 80
Joel 1:15—2:2
Revelation 18:15-24
Luke 14:12-24
Evening Psalter – 77, 79

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 78:1-39
Joel 2:3-11
Revelation 19:1-10
Luke 14:25-35
Evening Psalter – 78:40-72

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:97-120
Joel 2:12-19
Revelation 19:11-21
Luke 15:1-10
Evening Psalter – 81, 82

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 83
Joel 2:21-27
James 1:1-15
Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
Evening Psalter – 85, 86

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 88
Joel 2:28—3:8
James 1:16-27
Luke 16:1-9
Evening Psalter – 91, 92

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 87, 90
Joel 3:9-21
James 2:1-13
Luke 16:10-18
Evening Psalter – 136

TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK OF PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 66, 67
Habakkuk 1:1—2:1
Philippians 3:12—4:1
Matthew 23:13-24
Evening Psalter – 19, 46

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 89:1-18
Habakkuk 2:1-20
James 2:14-26
Luke 16:19-31
Evening Psalter – 89:19-52

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 97, 99, 100
Habakkuk 3:1-19
James 3:1-12
Luke 17:1-10
Evening Psalter – 94, 95

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 101, 109
Malachi 1:1-14
James 3:13—4:12
Luke 17:11-19
Evening Psalter – 119:121-144

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 105:1-22
Malachi 2:1-16
James 4:13—5:6
Luke 17:20-37
Evening Psalter – 105:23-45

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 102
Malachi 3:1-12
James 5:7-12
Luke 18:1-8
Evening Psalter – 107:1-32

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 107:33-43; 108
Malachi 3:13—4:6
James 5:13-20
Luke 18:9-14
Evening Psalter – 33

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 126. What is the fifth petition?

A. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

That is: For the sake of Christ's blood, do not impute to us, wretched sinners; any of our transgressions, nor the evil which still clings to us,^[1] as we also find this evidence of thy grace in us that we are fully determined wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbor.^[2]

[1] Ps. 51:1-7; 143:2; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1, 2.

[2] Matt. 6:14, 15; 18:21-35.

LAST WEEK OF PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q. 127. What is the sixth petition?

A. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

That is: In ourselves we are so weak that we cannot stand even for a moment.^[1]

Moreover, our sworn enemies—the devil,^[2] the world,^[3] and our own flesh^[4]—do not cease to attack us.

Wilt Thou, therefore, uphold and strengthen us by the power of thy Holy Spirit, so that in this spiritual war^[5] we may not go down to defeat, but always firmly resist our enemies, until we finally obtain the complete victory.^[6]

[1] Ps. 103:14-16; John 15:1-5.

[2] 2 Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Pet. 5:8.

[3] John 15:18-21.

[4] Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17.

[5] Matt. 10:19, 20; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Rom. 5:3-5.

[6] 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23.

Q. 128. How do you conclude your prayer?

A. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

That is: all this we ask of thee because, as our King, having power over all things, art both willing and able to give us all that is good,^[1] and because not we but thy holy Name should so receive all glory forever.^[2]

[1] Rom. 10:11-13; 2 Pet 2:9.

[2] Ps. 115:1; Jer. 33:8, 9; John 14:13.

Q. 129. What does the word Amen mean?

A. Amen means: It is true and certain.

For God has much more certainly heard my prayer than I feel in my heart that I desire this of Him.^[1]

[1] Is. 65:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13.

SUNDAY OF THE FULFILLMENT

Morning Psalter – 118
Zechariah 9:9-17
1 Peter 3:13-22
Matthew 21:1-13
Evening Psalter – 145

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 106:1-18
Zechariah 10:1-12
Galatians 6:1-10
Luke 18:15-30
Evening Psalter – 106:19-48

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 120, 121, 122, 123
Zechariah 11:1-17
1 Corinthians 3:10-23
Luke 18:31-43
Evening Psalter – 124, 125, 126, 127

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 119:145-176
Zechariah 12:1-10
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 19:1-10
Evening Psalter – 128, 129, 130

THURSDAY

Morning Psalter – 131, 132, 133
Zechariah 13:1-9
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 19:11-27
Evening Psalter – 134, 135

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 140, 142
Zechariah 14:1-11
Romans 15:7-13
Luke 19:28-40
Evening Psalter – 141, 143

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 137, 144
Zechariah 14:12-21
Philippians 2:1-11
Luke 19:41-48
Evening Psalter – 104