

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27 through October 3

[ARTICLE XXIII. THE MARRIAGE OF PRIESTS]

⁴¹ As for the analogy with the Levitical priests, we have already answered that this does not make it necessary to impose perpetual celibacy on priests. In addition, the Levitical laws about uncleanness do not apply to us. Intercourse contrary to these laws was uncleanness; now it is not, for Paul says (Titus 1:15), "To the pure all things are pure." The Gospel frees us from these Levitical regulations about impurity.

⁴² If anybody supports the law of celibacy in order to burden consciences with these Levitical observances, we must definitely resist him as the apostles in Acts 15 resisted those who required circumcision and tried to impose the law of Moses on Christians.

⁴³ At the same time good men will know how to use marriage moderately, especially when they are occupied with public service, which is often so burdensome to good men that domestic problems are excluded from their minds. Good men know, too, that Paul commands each one to possess his vessel in holiness (1 Thess. 4:4). They know that sometimes they must withdraw to have opportunity for prayer, but Paul does not want this to be perpetual (1 Cor. 7:5).

⁴⁴ Such continence is easy for the godly and busy. But it is all too evident that the great crowd of lazy priests in the confraternities, where they can live voluptuously, cannot even keep this Levitical continence. We all know the verse, "The boy who is used to being lazy hates those who are busy."

⁴⁵ Many heretics have misunderstood the law of Moses; therefore they have spoken contemptuously about marriage and admiringly about celibacy. Epiphanius complains that this characteristic among the Encratites captured the imagination of the unwary. They abstained from wine, even in the Lord's Supper; they abstained from the meat of all animals, thus surpassing the Dominican friars, who eat fish. They also abstained from marriage, and this called forth the most admiration. They thought they would merit grace by performing these works and services instead of using wine or meat or marriage, which seemed profane and unclean and hardly pleasing to God, even though it was not completely condemned.

⁴⁶ Paul condemns such "worship of angels" in Colossians (2:18). It surpasses the knowledge of Christ by making men believe that through such hypocrisy they are pure and righteous. It obscures the recognition of God's commands and gifts, which he wants us to use devoutly.

⁴⁷ We could mention cases of godly consciences being very troubled about the legitimacy of being married. The origin of this evil is the exaggerated way the monks have praised celibacy.

⁴⁸ We do not disparage temperances or continence; we have said before that discipline and restraint of the body are necessary. But we deny that one should trust in certain observances for righteousness.

⁴⁹ In the excellent phrase of Epiphanius, such observances should be praised "for the sake of discipline and the common weal" (that is, for the discipline of the body and for public morality), just as certain rites were introduced as lessons for the ignorant and not as services that justify. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. XXIII:41-49

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Psalm – 25:1-10

The Catechism – *The Ten Commandments – 2nd Commandment*

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, September 27 – Matthew 4:12-25

Monday, September 28 – Matthew 5:1-20

Tuesday, September 29 – Matthew 5:21-48 (*Feast of St. Michael & All Angels; suggested add'l reading: Revelation 12:7-12*)

Wednesday, September 30 – Matthew 6:1-15 (*Commemoration of Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture*)

Thursday, October 1 – Matthew 6:16-34

Friday, October 2 – Matthew 7:1-12

Saturday, October 3 – Matthew 7:13-29

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

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.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Derek Lecakes; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Lawrence Rast; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Daniel Preus; Concordia College-New York; The Rev. John Nunes; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; Governor Andrew Cuomo; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Shakeel Ahmed; Maryann Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Louise Blydenburgh; Vincent Caretta; Marian Clark; Jim and Yasuyo Coffey; Heather Edwards; Joseph Engelhart; Margie Glass; Glen Grote; Bruce Harris; Ken Hengen; Rita Henning; Larry Kelly; Michael Leili; Raymond McDonald; David McLachlan; Marge McLachlan; Kevin Merrihue; Gordon Moore; Mindy Moore; The Rev. Brian and Kristin Noack; Olga Pabst; Muldeo Pritipaul; Alan Rubinstein; Alison Ruddick; Diana Ryan; David Sabol; Barbara Santoro; William Schultz; Matt & Allison Vessie; Bob & Claire Wenzel; Beth Whitney

Armed Forces: Sean Boughal; Matthew Brooks; Nicholas Bonamico; Heather Bonamico; Justin Bonamico; Kevin Costello; Ross Oley; Michael Davis; Jen-Michael Keüpp; Michael Zuaro; Michael Wilkering; Kevin Karshick; Alyssa Dowdy; Greg Dowdy; Vincenzo Rocco; Jason Terciak; Joseph Hernandez; Kyle Kim; Karl Boerner; Justin Ketcham; Zach Gunusen; John Waters; Brian Williams; Stephen Vertucci; Phillip Rappe

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn for the Week – *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

LSB #575, st. 3

His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The 17th Sunday after Pentecost:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46