

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity  
September 20 through September 27, 2020*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 91 — A Prayer to Abide in the Lord our Refuge and Fortress**—In psalm 91 and throughout the psalter, the Lord is described as the refuge and fortress for His people against every assault from the problems of life and the enemies of faith. Psalm 91 also compares the Lord’s protection to a valiant raptor who shelters us under His wings. Satan attempts to ensnare Christians like a fowler to traps birds. The plagues of Egypt are alluded to in the image of pestilence, darkness, and destruction that lays waste at noon day. The firstborn not covered in the lamb’s blood died. The Lord stands with us in battle. The Lord is our refuge against every plague. Satan is depicted as a cobra, a lion, and a serpent. The Lord dispatches His holy angles against his attacks, so that we do not stumble or strike our foot against a stone. In Psalm 91, the Lord promises help, protection, and deliverance to every Christian who loves Him and calls upon His name. He promises us, “I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him” (verse 15).

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

## Theme: Life Is More than Clothing, Food, and Drink

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Luke 12:15

**Take heed and beware of covetousness,  
for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**

#### Psalm 91 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, grant me the faith to abide under the shelter of Your wings, to love You under the cross of adversity, and to call upon You for deliverance and protection from every assault of Satan; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35
Evening	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Seek First the Kingdom of God—Matthew 6:24-34</b>	
Monday	A Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night—Num. 9:15-23 <b>St. Matthew, Apostle—Matthew 9:9-13</b>	Hebrews 10:11-18
Tuesday	Israel Departs from Sinai—Numbers 10:11-14a, 29-36	Hebrews 10:19-25
Wednesday	The People of Israel Complain Against the Lord—Numbers 11:1-17	Hebrews 10:26-31
Thursday	The Lord Feeds His Grumbling People with Quail—Num. 11:18-35	Hebrews 10:32-39
Friday	Aaron and Miriam Speak Against Moses—Numbers 12:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-7
Saturday	The Lord Raises the Widow’s Son—1 Kings 17:17-24	Ephesians 3:13-21

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

<p><i>What is the Ninth Commandment?</i> <b>You shall not covet your neighbor's house.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>What is the Tenth Commandment?</i> <b>You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.</p>	Second Grade +

## **Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week**

**Prayers on the Ninth Commandment:** Gracious Lord, forgive us for coveting the things You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, You teach us in the Ninth Commandment that we should not make an idol out of the things that belong to others, but that we should help and be of service to our neighbor in keeping what belongs to him. You have called us in love to look out for and protect all the temporal gifts that belong to others. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of covetous desire and envy, for insisting upon having things that you have not given us, for being preoccupied with finding ways to get more and more for ourselves, and for making plans to obtain things from others by claiming that we have a right to them and they do not. Guard the thoughts and desires of our hearts. Rescue us from every form of greed and selfishness. Teach us to love our neighbor by being of service to him in protecting what You have given him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers on the Tenth Commandment:** Gracious Lord forgive us for coveting a spouse, worker, or relationship with someone that You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, in the Tenth Commandment You teach us that our God-given relationships with others are sacred and that they are to be honored and protected. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for coveting relationships with others that You have not given us, for every form of lust and self-centered desire, for wanting another person's spouse, for making a god out of people, for loving others more than we love You, and for trying to obtain the loyalty and affection of others that rightly belongs to our neighbor. Help us to be content with the relationships that You have given us. Grant us the gift of your grace and mercy in Jesus, so that in every way we encourage, support, and help our neighbors to maintain their God-given relationships in marriage, family, and the workplace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Andrew Gehlbach (9/20), Laura Laubenstein, Katie Banasik, (9/21), Ken Dumke, Randy Kirk, Angela Volquardsen, Samantha Bender, Aubrey Hoffmann (9/22), Ashley LaSage, Lucas Dubnicka, Ethan Krueger (9/24), Sherry Prowatzke, Richard Gallagher, Timothy Frerking (9/25).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Ben and Betsy Banasik (9/22).

#### **The sick and recovering:**

Luise Bollmeyer, Lenny Schrauth, Karl Stemke, Jeremy LaFore, David Berger, Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Harlan Petersen, Allison Witte.

**Those who mourn:** The family and friends of David Ellestad who mourn his death.

### **Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Collect for St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

#### **Hymn of the Week**

**"Evening and Morning" (stanza 1)**

**LSB 726**

**Looking forward to the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**September 27, 2020**

**Hymns: 726, 758, 552, 752, 747, 742**

**I Kings 17:17-24; Ephesians 3:13-21; Luke 7:11-17:**

*A large funeral procession carrying the only son of a widow is confronted by another large procession, Jesus and His followers. Death and Life meet face to face at the gate of the city (Luke 7:11-17). Filled with compassion, Jesus comes into direct contact with our mortality in order to overcome it. He touches the coffin and speaks His creative words of life, "Young man, I say to you, arise." Jesus does what is neither expected nor requested. For through Christ, God the Father "is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think" (Eph. 3:14-21). Jesus bore our death in His body that we may share in His resurrection. Even as Elijah stretched himself out three times over the Zarephath woman's son (2 Kings 17:17-24), God stretched Himself out over us in the threefold application of His name in the baptismal water, breathing new and everlasting life into us. "To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*