

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 12 through September 19, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 124: Blessed be the Lord Who Defends His Own—Psalm 124 is another Psalm of Ascents sung by the congregation of Israel in blessing for the Lord’s defense of His people. “If the Lord had not been on our side, we would have perished at the hands of our enemies.” The LORD blesses and defends His Church according to His promise of salvation to us. He is faithful to us even though our faith often wavers in confidence. This psalm gives encouragement today in the face of persecution and the attempts of those who would destroy the Church. For this protection we pray, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey...Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers...Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth” and He will not let us down.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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: Seek First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 5:8

**God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

Psalm 124 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O LORD, we bless and praise You for delivering us from the enemies of Your Church. Sustain us with Your grace as You have promised. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	30	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45
Evening	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Seek First the Kingdom of God & His Righteousness—Mt. 6:24-34	
Monday	The Ark Is Brought to Jerusalem—2 Samuel 6:1-19	2 Timothy 3:1-17
Tuesday	God’s Covenant with David—2 Samuel 7:1-17 Holy Cross Day—1 Corinthians 1:18-25	2 Timothy 4:1-8
Wednesday	David’s Thanksgiving to God—2 Samuel 7:18-29	2 Timothy 4:9-22
Thursday	David Shows Kindness to Mephibosheth—2 Samuel 9:1-13	Titus 1:1-16
Friday	David and Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11:1-17, 22-25	Titus 2:1-15
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—1 Kings 17:17-24	Ephesians 3:13-21

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— The Seventh and Eighth Commandments

<p><i>What is the Seventh Commandment?</i> You shall not steal.</p>	Preschool +
<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>	First Grade +
<p><i>What is the Eighth Commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.</p>	Preschool +
<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>	Second Grade +

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

Prayers on the Seventh Commandment:

Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of stealing and strengthen our faith in Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Seventh Commandment You teach us that all of our possessions and income are gifts of your love. You have given us our daily work and earthly resources that we might serve our neighbor in need. For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins of selfishness and greed, of being stingy and making a god out of our money and possessions, of cheating others to get what we don't deserve, of being lazy in our daily tasks, and of working only for the benefit of ourselves. We thank You for the privilege of being able to share Your love and care for others through the daily work and temporal gifts You have given us. Grant us Your grace and compassion in Jesus that we might be faithful stewards of these gifts, using them according to Your will to help our neighbors in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Eighth Commandment:

Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of giving false testimony against our neighbor and strengthen our faith in Jesus 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 about him in the kindest way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, in the Eighth Commandment You teach us that a person's good name and reputation are gifts of your grace and that you desire them to be defended and protected by what we say. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of lying, gossip, and slander which hurts our neighbor in the eyes of others. Forgive us for all the ways in which we pass judgment against our neighbor when we have not been given the authority to do so. Forgive us for failing to defend our neighbor when his good name and reputation are being attacked by others. By Your words of grace and mercy to us in Jesus, teach us to tell the truth in love, and strengthen us to cover our neighbor's sins with words of forgiveness and compassion: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The Office of the Ministry: The Lord's guidance and blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and headmaster.

Baptismal Birthdays: Joe Schneider, Alex Scheler (9/12), Pete Greschner, Christine Sawatzki, Bob Rothe (9/14), Jeanne Scholz, Janeen Hartwig ((9/15), Daniel Haga (9/16), Jacob Rank (9/17), Matthew Bender, Stan Heine, Kelsey DePue (9/18).

Thanksgiving for birth: Katarina Ruth Moutard, granddaughter of Dale & Kim Stratil, born 9/9 at US Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan.

Wedding Anniversaries: Mark and Cheryl Gretzinger, Ed and Bernice Lemke, Jeff and Amanda DiPuma (9/12), Lee and Cathie Weber (9/16), Jason and Cathy Petersen (9/17).

Thanksgiving for Sustaining Grace: Jim Nitzsche, Jeremy LaFore, Aburuyeba Amaso, Kevin Kehres, and Luise Bollmeyer.

The sick: Del Duwe having aortic valve replacement surgery on Monday, Sept 13th.

Cancer treatment: Gabby Hartwig continuing treatment for childhood cancer; James Loker, liver cancer.

Grief: The parents, wife, and children of Doug Elkins (friends of Chuck and Jan Finke) who died of cancer this past week.

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 Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14)

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Hymn of the Week

"Beautiful Savior" (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 19, 2021

Hymns: 741 (1-6), 758, 755, 757, 697, 741 (7-8)

I Kings 17:17-24: The raising of the widow's son in the Old Testament points us to its fulfillment in Jesus' ministry of resurrection.

Ephesians 3:13-21: Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, that we might know and comprehend the riches and depth of His love

Luke 7:11-17: Jesus is the resurrection and the life, but the life He gives is not merely the resuscitation of a dead individual, but the restoration of life with God and one another in a wonderful fellowship with the Triune God of love in whose image we were created. Loneliness and separation from loved ones are what sin and its resulting death brings into our lives. When Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son, he arrested the funeral procession, touched the open coffin, and spoke the word that raised the dead. It is a wonderful picture of what Jesus' death, resurrection, and preaching accomplishes. He has touched our sin and death and made it His own. He took away the cause of death when He atoned for the sin which separated us from God and one another. And in His resurrection, He proclaims a Word of forgiveness and new life which raises the dead and restores our fellowship with God and one another. That Jesus presented the raised son to his mother is a wonderful picture of the blessed reunion which is yet to come. From this miracle the people rightly confessed, "A great prophet has risen up ;among us" and "God has visited His people."