

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Ninth Sunday after Trinity  
 July 28, 2024, through August 4, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 54: A Prayer for Deliverance from the Enemies of Christians—**Psalm 54 was prayed by David on the occasion of King Saul’s attempts to murder him. The Ziphites had betrayed David to Saul. Saul had departed from the Word of God and despised the Lord for having anointed David to succeed him as King. David would not lift his hand against his enemy, but rather commended himself to God and prayed for the Lord to deliver him. David’s example is a pattern for us and Christ’s Church under persecution and suffering. Our only weapon is the Word of God and faith that clings to the Lord’s promise of protection. In our battle against the forces of darkness and the enemies of our faith, our protection can never be the force of human arms but must always and only be the Word of God the protection that the Lord promises to those who are faithful to Him. So we, with the whole Church on earth, pray with David, “Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your strength. Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth...oppressors have sought after my life; they have not set God before them. Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil.” This is of inestimable comfort in the face of persecution and suffering for the faith.

## 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: With the Shrewd You Will Show Yourselves Shrewd!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

### Verse: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

### Psalm 54 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, You promise to protect and defend Your Church and every Christian who calls upon You in faith. Deliver us from the hands of persecutors and enemies of the Gospel who rise up against us, and give us a quiet and patient confidence in Your deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56
Evening	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Parable of the Unjust Steward—Luke 16:1-13</b>	
Monday	Healing on the Sabbath—Mark 3:1-12	Jeremiah 6:19-26
Tuesday	The Twelve Apostles—Mark 3:13-35	Jeremiah 7:1-16
Wednesday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Mark 4:1-20	Jeremiah 8:4-12
Thursday	Jesus Tells Parables of the Kingdom of God—Mark 4:21-34	Jeremiah 9:11-16, 23-26
Friday	Jesus Stills the Storm—Mark 4:35-41	Jeremiah 10:11-16
Saturday	A Demon-Possessed Man Is Healed—Mark 5:1-20	Jeremiah 10:17-25

### The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer— Sixth Petition

What is the Sixth Petition?

**And lead us not into temptation.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

God tempts no one.

We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us

so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

Although we are attacked by these things,

we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Third Grade +

**Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace**

**Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”**

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

**In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Kristina Larson (7/28), Wyatt Thoni (8/2), Julie Goltermann, Polly Joubert (8/3).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Keith and Cindy Kunkel, Jim and Dorothee Behling (7/30), Jeremy and Nancy LaFore (7/31), Scott and Chantel Perry (8/1).

**The Sick:** George Kaminski, Jim Cardo, and Beth Petersen recovering from surgery; Carol Bender, Rev. Dan McMiller (stage IV kidney disease); Rev. David Groth (friend of the Schelers) diagnosed with blood cancer, Jeanette Kellar, Rick Schuerman, Bill Spilger, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig, Mark Ruhbusch for cancer.

**Those in Hospice:** Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother-Nicola Giordano).

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.**

**Hymn of the Week**

**“What Is the World to Me”**

**730**

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

**August 4, 2024**

**Hymns: 579, 644, 439 (4-11), 607, 531**

**Jeremiah 8:4-12:** The prophet Jeremiah warns of the peril of false teaching.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11:** St. Paul opens this chapter of First Corinthians with a reminder of the Holy Spirit’s essential work: He creates faith in Christ that confesses that Jesus is Lord. As the Catechism reminds us, “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.” Faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. Unbelief and cursing of the Son of God is the work of the Evil One. In addition to the Spirit’s work of calling to faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit is also responsible for a “diversity of gifts.” Some of these gifts are unique to the office of Apostle and the time of the New Testament, like the working of miracles. Some of these gifts continue in the church throughout time, like the gift of prophecy that is seen in the preaching of the Word. But every gift of the Spirit works together in the cause of preserving faith in Christ and building up the Church. The Holy Spirit is never responsible for division or strife.

**Luke 19:41-48:** Our Lord wept over Jerusalem for the destruction that would soon come upon her. For she did not recognize the time of God’s visitation in Christ, who had come to bring her peace (Luke 19:41–48). Through His prophets God had consistently called His people to turn from their deceit and false worship. “But My people do not know the judgment of the Lord” (Jer. 7:1–11; 8:4–12). They sought to establish their own righteousness rather than receive Christ’s righteousness through faith (Rom. 9:30–10:4). So it was that God was in His temple to cleanse it, a precursor to the once-for-all cleansing from sin which He would accomplish in the temple of His own body on the cross. God grants us to know the things that make for our peace—His visitation in the Word and Sacraments—that by the Holy Spirit we may penitently confess “Jesus is Lord” (1 Cor. 12:1–11).