

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 20th through September 26th, 2020

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 selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

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

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism – The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Large Catechism – The meaning of the Fifth Commandment is that no one should harm another person for any evil deed, no matter how much that person deserves it. For wherever murder is forbidden, there also is forbidden everything that may lead to murder. Many people, although they do not actually commit murder, nevertheless curse others and wish such frightful things on them that, if they were to come true, they would soon put an end to them. Everyone acts this way by nature, and it is common knowledge that no one willingly suffers injury from another. Therefore, God wishes to remove the root and source that embitters our heart toward our neighbor. He wants to train us to hold this commandment always before our eyes as a mirror in which to see ourselves, so that we may be attentive to his will and, with heartfelt confidence and prayer in his name, commit whatever wrong we suffer to God. Then we can let our enemies rave and rage and do their worst. Thus we may learn to calm our anger and have a patient, gentle heart, especially toward those who give us cause to be angry, namely, our enemies. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13–14a)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Seek First the Kingdom of God Matthew 6:24-34		Psalm 29
Monday	Pillar of Cloud by Day & Pillar of Fire by Night Numbers 9:15-23	Hebrews 10:11-18	Psalm 30
Tuesday	Israel Departs from Sinai Numbers 10:11-14a, 29-36	Hebrews 10:19-25	Psalm 31
Wednesday	The People of Israel Complain Against the Lord Numbers 11:1-17	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalm 32
Thursday	The Lord Feeds His Grumbling People Numbers 11:18-35	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalm 33
Friday	Aaron and Miriam Speak Against Moses Numbers 12:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-7	Psalm 34
Saturday	The Lord Raises the Widow's Son 1 Kings 17:17-24	Ephesians 3:13-21	Psalm 35

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends who mourn the death of Larry Jurgensmeyer (Heather Kleiboeker's father). **Those in Need of Healing:** Barb Mueller (recovering from surgery), Jason Brammeier (recovering from surgery), Lucille Stein, Sandy Wehking, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (brain tumor) (son-in-law of Roger & Joan Knolhoff), All affected and sick on account of the Coronavirus. **Homebound Members:** Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 20th Caden Schneider, 21st Kiley Tyberendt, 23rd Bobbi Tyberendt.

Anniversaries: 23rd Raeshelle & Brandon Braye, 25th Kit & Marsha Milano, 26th Curtis & Monica French, Darrin & Sherri Williams. **For Government Officials:** Donald Trump (President), JB Pritzker (Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and strife.

Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)

Hymn of the Week: What God Ordains is Always Good (LSB 760)

Hymn of the Week: "What God Ordains Is Always Good" is written by Samuel Rodigast (1649-1708). Rodigast begins each stanza with the confession that "what God ordains is always good." The confession of God's work as "good" and His corresponding will for humanity as "just and holy" comes not by observation but by His Word. The world observes the works of the "hidden God" and passes judgment on Him - God is thought unfair, cruel, or perhaps not really in control. The Christian, however, lives by faith and not by sight, trusting the Word of God; namely, that God works all things together for the good of the Christian (Romans 8:28). These promises and truths are made evident in the crucifixion of Christ. His death is an offense to the world, but it is salvation to those who believe (1 Cor. 1:18).