

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of Septuagesima

January 31st through February 6th, 2021

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 – 6th Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

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.

Large Catechism: Temptation is of three kinds: of the flesh, the world, and the devil. For we live in the flesh and carry the old creature around our necks; it goes to work and lures us daily into unchastity, laziness, gluttony and drunkenness, greed and deceit, into acts of fraud and deception against our neighbor. Next comes the world, which assails us by word and deed and drives us to anger and impatience. Then comes the devil, whose purpose is to make us scorn and despise both the Word and the works of God, to tear us away from faith, hope, and love, to draw us into unbelief, false security, and stubbornness. As long as we remain in this vile life, where we are attacked, hunted, and harried on all sides, we are constrained to cry out and pray every hour that God may not allow us to become faint and weary and to fall back into sin, shame, and unbelief. This, then, is what “leading us not into temptation” means: when God gives us power and strength to resist, even though the attack is not removed or ended. For no one can escape temptations and allurements as long as we live in the flesh and have the devil prowling

around us. We cannot help but suffer attacks, and even be mired in them, but we pray here that we may not fall into them and be drowned by them. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16		Psalm 12
Monday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 1) Luke 15:11-24	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 13
Tuesday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 2) Luke 15:25-32	Psalm 51	Psalm 14
Wednesday	David's Sin with Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-27	Psalm 32	Psalm 15
Thursday	The Prophet Nathan Confronts David 2 Samuel 12:1-25	John 20:19-23	Psalm 16
Friday	The Miraculous Catch of Fish Luke 5:1-11	Matthew 28:18-20	Psalm 17
Saturday	The Power of the Word of God Isaiah 55:10-13	Hebrews 4:9-13	Psalm 18

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 Rejoice:** Ben & Nicole Goolsby at the birth of Maverick Timothy (grandparents Tim & Chris Hanke). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatment:** Mindy Wicklander (Sam & Angie Siddell's daughter). **Those Recovering from Illness and Surgery:** Sharon Hanke, Rhonda Morgan (Karen Yardley's mother), Sam Tepe (Angie Siddell's brother), Barb Mueller. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (son-in-law of Roger & Joan Knolhoff, ongoing cancer treatments).

Homebound Members: Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 3rd Barb Mueller, 5th Jordan Kleiboeker, 5th Roger Zimmermann, 6th Tayler Albers. **For Area Schools:** That faculty and students may delight in teaching and learning, and that they may be kept safe from the pandemic. **For Government Officials:** Joe Biden (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: Salvation Unto Us Has Come (LSB 555)