

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
 September 13th through September 19th, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—Property and Reputation—Personal property and a person's good name and reputation are gifts of God. By these gifts our heavenly Father desires that we serve our neighbor, protecting his own possessions and income and preserving his own good name and reputation in the world. We are called to do this as Christians, not because our neighbor always deserves such consideration and protection, but because this is how God has treated us for Jesus' sake. "You shall not steal" (the Seventh Commandment) exposes not only the sin of "stealing" but every way in which we do not help our neighbor keep and protect what belongs to him. "You shall not give false testimony" (the Eighth Commandment) exposes not only the sin of "lying" but every way in which we spread information about our neighbor which injures his reputation in the eyes of others. The Seventh and Eighth Commandments call us to repentance for such sins and direct us to pray for God's mercy and strength, that we might live faithfully toward our neighbor, "helping him to improve and protect his possessions and income," and "defending him, speaking well of him, and explaining everything about him in the kindest possible way." This is how our faith in the Gospel of God's undeserved mercy and love in Christ takes shape in our lives for the benefit of others.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

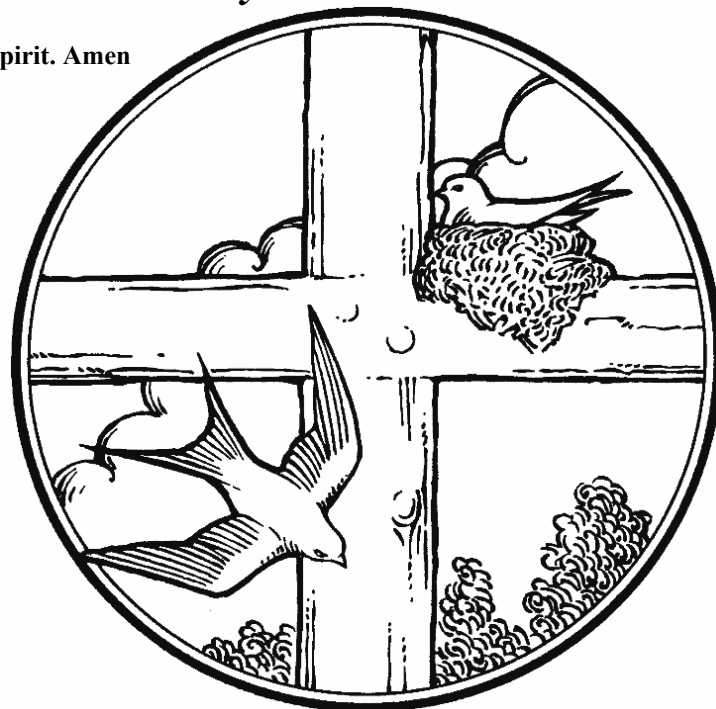
Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: What God Ordains Is Always Good.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed



Verse: Romans 13:10

**Love does no harm to a neighbor;
 therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Psalms 146 (antiphon: v. 9a)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: *O Lord, grant us Your grace that we might believe and confess that our life, soul, and salvation is a gift of Your all-sufficient grace and blessing through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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

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

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.

Readings for the week of Trinity 15

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Holy Cross Day—John 12:20-33	1 Corinthians 1:18-35
Tuesday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	Hebrews 7:20-28
Wednesday	The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34	Hebrews 8:1-13
Thursday	The Lord Commands a Census of Israel—Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 45-54	Hebrews 9:1-10
Friday	The Levites Are Called to Serve as Priests—Numbers 3:1-16, 39-51	Hebrews 9:11-22
Saturday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Ephesians 3:13-21

Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of 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 (Monday):

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. Amen

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

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

Hymn of the Week

Abide O Dearest Jesus (st. 1-3)

LSB #919

Looking forward to the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 20th, 2026

Hymns: 752, 758, 618, 544, 633, 559, 642, 643, 461

1 Kings 17:17-24: The Lord brings life out of death. The story of the prophet Elijah raising the widow's son proclaims God's intention to restore the relationships of life that were destroyed by sin and death. The widow and her son are not only restored to each other, but they are restored to life with God by the Word of the prophet. This story is played out again in Jesus' raising of the widow of Nain's son. In it we see that Jesus is the true "Elijah" (that is, "Yahweh is God") because He has restored life to those dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 3:13-21: The Apostle Paul makes clear that it is the love of God in Christ that has sustained him in the midst of tribulation as an apostle. It is because of the overwhelming love of God in Christ Jesus that he invites the Ephesian congregation not only to receive that love and live in it, but to give all honor and glory to God for it.

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 exceedingly abundantly above all that 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 by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."