

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*  
**For the Week of Pentecost 16**  
*September 21-26, 2020*

**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 permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

**Invocation:** In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Speak the Apostles' Creed.**

**Verse: Luke 10:20** – “Do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #521** “Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”

**Readings for the Week** [*The readings for Thursday-Saturday are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.*]:

<b>Monday</b>	Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32	<i>How does sin warp our thinking so that we think God is not just? What do we need to correct our thinking?</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Philippians 2:1–18	<i>Why is humility so hard? What does humility look like? Which is better: to exalt yourself or be exalted by God?</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Matthew 21:23–32	<i>What pleased the father in this parable? How do you please your Father in heaven in the same way?</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3	<i>Should we fear what is to come? What can we rely on to help?</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Revelation 12:7-12	<i>What do we have the conquers the devil and his angels?</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Luke 10:17-20	<i>In what should a Christian rejoice: power now or life eternal? Why? But how do we often get this wrong?</i>

**The Catechism – The Creed: The Second Article [part 1]** – And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**Collect for the Week:** Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**The Prayers:** Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
- + all who are struggling and stuck in sexual sins.
- + God’s blessing, wisdom, and guidance for our congregation’s keyboardists and musicians.
- + the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, for God’s blessing, guidance, and provision.
- + God’s blessing, guidance, and provision for Lutheran Bible Translators.

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

***Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!***

## **In our prayers this week, we remember:**

All effected and recovering from Hurricane Sally in the south.

**Jackie Teixeira** recovering from surgery.

**Richard and Lena Rush, Don and Alice** (Elise Mertz's grandparents), and **Dana and Dan** (Elise's aunt and uncle) for recovery from Covid.

**Jim Cassell** and **Bob Brown** (father of friend of Pastor) recovering from serious conditions.

**Carris Vondal, Lisa Votraw, Nancy** (Kathy Kielmeyer's sister) and **Dan Miksa** [HLC], for protection, healing, and strength.

For those who are elderly and/or homebound: **Roy Clark** and **Reinhardt Wing**.

**The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families** for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

**Eva Marsh, Jonathan Malekzadeh, Susan Cassell,** and **Jacque Strege** (Mickey Vondal's sister), for Your continued strength and healing.

**Lacey and baby Eckert** (Laurie Douthwaite's sister-in-law) for a safe and healthy pregnancy.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Nancy Nelson, Mary Ann Wright** (former member), **Julie** (Pastor Schruhl's daughter), **Norma Kielmeyer** (Kathy's mother), **Pam Moss** (friend of the Vondal family), **Kristen** (cousin of Elise Mertz), **Jill Bailey** (Nancy Nus' sister-in-law), **Carol Joiner** (friend of the Fields family), **Debbie Dupuy** (Barbara Power's sister), **Kristen Perugini** (friend of the Killians), **Beatrice McInnis** (Michelle Wing's grandmother).

**Nick McCarthy** (friend of the Fields family) diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

**Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé) for healing and strength from lupus and other health problems.

**Kristoffer Rush** (Richard and Lena's son) and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth Libby), for strength, help, hope, and faith.

**Scott Goss** (friend of Scott Killian) for the Word of God to continue to work in his heart and strengthen him in faith and hope.

**Ali Zaerivand** (friend of the Keisers) for faith and hope as he awaits an immigration hearing.

**Sahilis Figueroa** (Viviana's sister) **and her family**, for Your protection, peace, and faith.

**Leslie, Dorris, and their children** (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

**Fatma** (friend of our church), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn Skeete, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth Libby), and **Tamim Islamzadeh and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For our adopted seminarian, **Christopher Durham**.

For the **Wolf family** (missionaries to Africa), **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (mission work in Philadelphia), and **Rev. Charles St-Onge** (mission work in Quebec and mission facilitator in the Caribbean), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For those serving our country in the military: **Joshua Ecker** and **John Boling** (friend of the Vondals).

For our catechumens: **Caleb and Eli Malekzadeh** and **Leander Wing**.

For our college students: **Maddie Brown, Kitty Fields, Sydnie Henry, Caleb Hoverson, Rachel Keiser, Noah Leraas, Elise Mertz, Sarah Nus,** and **Matthew Torkelson**.

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Paul, Angela, Rachel, Kathryn, and Christie Keiser**

For God's blessing upon the **Lutheran Church in Kenya**, Matongo Lutheran Seminary, Nyapalo congregation, and Hope for the Destitute (care for widows and orphans).

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless a future **deaf mission at St. Athanasius** and **our mission church, Hope Lutheran Church, in Purcellville.**

+ + +

Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Peter Brondos

Vice President: Scott Killian

Recording Secretary: TJ Myers

Treasurer: Logan Hansen

Financial Secretary: Dave Fields

Executive Board, Member-at-Large: Anthony Johnson

Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian

Board of Evangelism: Hillary Johnson, Nancy Nus

Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Jay Hertel, Jonathan Malekzadeh.

Social Media Coordinator: Rachel Hebert

Commission on Mercy: Nancy Nelson and Grace Killian

Deaf Ministry Advisory Group: Janet Rosenberry, Leah Vigil, Michelle Wing

Sunday School Teachers: Laurie Douthwaite, Hillary Johnson, Elizabeth Libby, and Mickey Vondal.

### **About this Sunday: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 2 (page 167)

### **Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ**

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

## This Week at Saint Athanasius

Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday, September 21	Board of Elders, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, September 22	Prayer Service, 12:05 pm
Wednesday, September 23	Ezekiel Bible Study, 7:00 pm
Thursday, September 24	Prayer Service, 12:05 pm
	Youth Catechesis, 3:00 pm
Sunday, September 27	<i>Commemoration of Saint Michael and All Angels</i>
	Public Confession of Caleb and Eli Malekzadeh, 9:00 am
	Confirmation of Caleb and Eli Malekzadeh, 10:15 am

Next week's hymns: 522, 521, 640 (tune: 637), 520, 666, 670

**Ezekiel Online Bible Study** is back this Wednesday night as we move onto chapter 15 and a familiar image of Israel as a vineyard. Join us! 7 pm in our WebEx room.

**Life Thought:** "The Adoption Creed: 'Not flesh of my flesh, nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own; never forget for a single minute, you didn't grow under my heart, but in it.'" – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**Opportunity for Service:** This time of staying at home and social distancing can be a very lonely and isolation time. A phone call or a card can do a world of good! Stay in touch with your fellow Athanasians. And remember to pray for them!

**Coming Soon** (*Mark your calendars!*) . . .

First Day of Autumn (September 22)

Commemoration of Saint Michael and All Angels (September 27)

Public Confession and Confirmation of Caleb and Eli Malekzadeh (September 27)



Don't forget to clip and bring in your "Box Tops for Education." Give them to Nancy Nelson. These go to help the Lakota Sioux Indian children in North Dakota. Thanks!



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of "Phil's Friends!" See Nancy Nelson or Grace Killian for more information.



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The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for food in our area, so ECHO is again “Stuffing the Bus” to respond to the need. Can you help those in need in our area?

We’ll be collecting non-perishable foods here at church for the next two Sundays, September 13 and 20. Items that are most needed right now are: rice (boxed is best), 2 lb. bags of sugar and flour, dry pasta, dried beans, and canned vegetables. (A list of other needed items is below.)

Please, "family-sized" items. Extra large items, (25lb bags of flour, 5-6 lb single cans of anything) are too large for distribution to ECHO client families which have 4 people on average.

*Thanks for your generosity and help, and for showing the love of Christ to our neighbors in need!*

Other items needed, listed in order of priority:

- Can Soup
- Can Meat
- Tuna
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Muffin Mix
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Jelly
- Can Tomatoes
- Pancake Syrup

- Salsa
- Salad Dressing
- Juice (family size)
- Tea/Coffee



**Ecumenical Community Helping Others**