

**Apostles' Creed, Psalter Reading, and Scripture Reading  
For September 19, 2021**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PSALTER READING: PSALM 17**

Here, O Lord, my righteous plea; listen to my cry.

**Give ear to my prayer – it does not rise from deceitful lips.**

May my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right.

**Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.**

As for the deeds of men, by the word of your lips I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.

**My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped.**

I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.

**Show the wonder of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

**They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance.**

They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

**They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion crouching in cover.**

Rise up, O Lord, confront them, bring them down; rescue me from the wicked by your sword.

**O Lord, by your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life.**

You still the hunger of those you cherish; their sons have plenty and they store up wealth for their children.

**And I, in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Revelation 13:11-18 (NIV)

### **The Beast out of the Earth**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup> And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. <sup>14</sup> Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> The second beast was given power to give

breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. <sup>16</sup> It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

<sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.