

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following*

*The Nativity of Our Lord – December 25, 2022*

*Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order*

### **Invocation**

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

### **Psalm 2**

### **Verse of the Month**

Matthew 21:9 “Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

### **10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed**

### **Hymn of the Week**

O Blessed Day When First was Poured (TLH 115)

### **Reading from Holy Scripture**

*Members may choose...*

- *Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children’s The Story Bible (CPH)*

- *Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB p. 299-304)*

### **Looking forward to the Circumcision and Name of Our Lord**

Monday: Genesis 17:3b-14

Tuesday: Galatians 3:23-29

Wednesday: Luke 2:21

Thursday: Our newborn God keeps the Law for us and brings Abraham’s promises to their fulfillment when He is circumcised. It is there that the name above all names is “*bestowed on Him*” (Phil. 2:9), “*the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb*”: Jesus, which means “the Lord [YHWH] saves” (Luke 2:21). He sheds the first drops of His precious blood in accordance with this name and in anticipation of His cross, “*for He will save His people from their sins*” (Matt. 1:21). The law’s captivity gives way to the freedom of faith in Christ Jesus, who cuts a new covenant in His blood to be received by faith, whether male or female, Jew or Greek (Gal. 3:23-28). His name is given to us in Holy Baptism, and we are made sons of God and “*heirs according to promise*,” true offspring of Abraham by faith (Gal. 3:29). Eight days after the celebration of our Lord’s birth, a new “Year of the Lord” is begun in Jesus’ holy name and with His benediction. Jesus is the Lord, and by this name we are blessed (Num. 6:22-27).

### **Catechism for the Week: Seventh Petition of the Lord’s Prayer**

*What is the Seventh Petition? But deliver us from evil.*

*What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.*

### **Prayers:**

#### **Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for Your great, unspeakable grace in receiving the needy into Your care and subjecting Your Son to the Law for our sake, that He, by His perfect obedience, might satisfy Your wrath and repair our disobedience. We beseech You so to enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may take comfort in this obedience over against our sins and wicked conscience, and by the help of Your Holy Spirit begin our life as obedient children and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **In Our Prayers This Week:**

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Bill Heck, Lisa Salo

#### **Lord’s Prayer**

##### **Morning Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

##### **Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

##### **Mealtime Prayer**

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

##### **Closing**

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### **Hymn of the Month**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (LSB 334/TLH 58)

#### **Reading from the Book of Concord**

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 73-86  
From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)