

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

The First Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord – January 8, 2023

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 67

Verse of the Month

Luke 2:21 “And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

The Only Son from Heaven (LSB 402)

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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Monday: Amos 9:11-15

Tuesday: Romans 12:6-16

Wednesday: John 2:1-11

Thursday: The coming of the Messianic kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that “the mountains shall drip with sweet wine.” (Amos 9:11-15) When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine. (Jn 2:1-11) With this sign Christ manifests His glory. The “back” of God (Ex 33:12-23) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation’s curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Groom will give His life for the Bride (Eph 5:22-32), and from His side will flow water and blood, the holy sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to “be kindly affectionate to one another, in honor giving preference to one another.” (Rom 12:6-16)

Catechism for the Week: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Part I

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Prayers:

Collect for the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, I thank You that You have given me Your grace and brought me to the holy estate of marriage and thereby kept me from sin. And I beseech You to give me Your Holy Spirit, that He may so lead and guide me in that estate that I may be one with my spouse, give no cause for anger or strife, but lead a loving and godly life, that although tribulation may not be avoided, we may nevertheless always be sensible of Your gracious help and blessing, raise our children according to Your will, live with one another in all godliness, and finally obtain eternal salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Bill Heck, Lisa Salo, Pat Jung

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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (LSB 358/TLH 85)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Augsburg Confession p. 116-129

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)