

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord – January 15, 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 2

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

Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh Vision Fair (LSB 413)

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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Monday: II Kings 5:1-15a

Tuesday: Romans 12:16-21

Wednesday: Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday: The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile (Rom. 1:8-17). Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God’s saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, a Syrian commander is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel (II Kings 5:1-15a). Evil is overcome by good (Rom 12:16-21). So also in the New Testament, a Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord (Matt. 8:1-13). All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus’ Word of healing has authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion’s faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation—not even for a Jew—but only weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, who out of great mercy gave us Your Son to be made man and die on the cross for us: put Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may confide wholly in Your Son alone, and by Him believe as firmly in the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life as the centurion believed that He would save his sick servant with a word. We have His word that whoever believes in Him will never perish. Grant therefore, dear Father in heaven, that we may believe it with a resolute heart and remain steadfast in it until our final end. 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 Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 129-140

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)