

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

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

*Populus Zion (Advent II) – December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 85**

#### **Verse of the Month**

Luke 1:35 “And [Gabriel] answered and said to [Mary], ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

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

#### **Hymn of the Week**

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People (LSB 347/TLH 61)

#### **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 Gaudete (Advent III)**

Monday: Isaiah 40:1-11

Tuesday: I Corinthians 4:1-5

Wednesday: Matthew 11:2-11

Thursday: The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord...*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa 40:6). Now He asks from prison, “*Are you the one who is to come...?*” (Matt. 11:2) Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The “*stewards of the mysteries of God*” (I Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. The Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

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

*What is the Fifth Petition?* And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

### **Prayers:**

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

O Lord God, heavenly Father, who caused Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become man and to come into this world to break Satan’s tyranny; to deliver us poor men from sin and death; and to give us eternal salvation: we beseech you that You would so lead and rule our hearts with Your Holy Spirit that we may look only to Your Word and so, avoiding every offense to which our reason inclines us, be found in Your flock, even the flock which is not offended at Your Son, Jesus Christ, but by Him has eternal salvation. Amen.

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

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Lisa Salo, Betty Beierle, Ronald Baumgart, Breanne Schultz, Carrie Strueder, Gail Andrich

#### **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**

Creator of the Stars of Night (LSB 351)

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

Portions of the Augsburg Confession p. 56-63

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)