

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Christmas Vigil – December 24th, 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 89

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

Of the Father’s Love Begotten (LSB 384/TLH 98)

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 First Sunday after Christmas

Monday: Isaiah 11:1-5

Tuesday: Galatians 4:1-7

Wednesday: Luke 2:22-40

Thursday: ***The Seed of David Comes to His Temple***

A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is. 11:1–5)—the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam. 7:1–16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal. 4:1–7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel*” (Luke 2:22–40). Christ has enlightened us in baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the Holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in Him.

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 for the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord, God, heavenly Father, who by St. Simeon prophesied that Christ, Your Son, was appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel: enlighten our hearts, we beseech You, by Your Holy Spirit, that rightly knowing Your Son, Christ Jesus, we may cling to Him in every distress and danger, rise in Him, and not be offended at Him with the blind and complacent world, but be bold and confident in whatever suffering and tribulation we meet for the sake of Your Word and confession. For it is certain that those who persecute Your Word have no part in Your kingdom, but those who believe and abide in it have eternal salvation. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Betty Beierle, Ronald Baumgart, Carrie Strueder, Marian Becker

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 Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 86-102
From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)