

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

First Sunday after Christmas –December 29th, 2024

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 77:11-20

Verse of the Month

Luke 21:36 “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band (TLH 273)

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 Christmas

Monday: Genesis 46:1-7

Tuesday: I Peter 4:12-19

Wednesday: Matthew 2:13-23

Thursday: Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen 46:1-7). God made a great nation of him there. But that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing from murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Mt 2:13-23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Hos 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of faith (I Pet 4:12-19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.

Catechism for the Week: Conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer

What is the Conclusion? For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.* Amen.

What does this mean? (or, *What is meant by the word "Amen"?*) This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

**These words were not originally in Luther’s Small Catechism*

Prayers:

Collect for 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:

Frank Meyer, Mark Siddons

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

The Advent of Our King (LSB 331/TLH 68)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Augsburg Confession p. 102-116

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)