

## The Congregation at Prayer

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

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 19, 2025*

*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 110:1-4**

### **Verse of the Month**

Psalm 139:14 “I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

### **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 III**

*How can water do such great things?* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. [Titus 3:5-8]

### **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:**

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**

Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming (LSB 359/TLH 645)

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

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 140-155  
From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)