

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 6 through January 13, 2019

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Seventh Petition—“Rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation.”** When we pray the Seventh Petition, “but deliver us from evil,” we might be tempted to conclude that we are asking that “evil” never rear its head in our lives. This misses the mark. Evil will come into our lives in the form of Satan’s attacks upon our “body and soul, possessions and reputation.” Holy Scripture makes this clear. We will not be spared from being attacked. God wills that the attacks of evil against us serve the cause of faith. “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.” Therefore, in the Seventh Petition we are asking that God would preserve our faith in Christ when we are assaulted by the Evil One, and teach us to commend ourselves—body, soul, and spirit, with all that we are and have—into His gracious keeping. The Word of our Lord teaches us that He will not forsake His own. If He allows evil to enter into our lives, then He does so for His good purposes and for the exercise of faith in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This petition promises the Christian: “God will not allow the Evil One or any adversity to overwhelm you.” By this petition He invites you to trust this promise and to call upon Him in your need. In this way faith in Christ is active.

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

## Theme: This Is My Beloved Son in Whom I Am Well Pleased!

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Romans 8:26

The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

#### Psalm 72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Eternal God and Father, You have revealed Your Son as the only Savior from sin, and called us to the blessed knowledge of salvation, we thank You that You have preserved Your truth among us despite all the wiles and assaults of the Wicked One; and we beseech You, keep us evermore in purity of doctrine and send forth Your Word among all people, accompanying it with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit, that many may be brought to know Your Son and obtain the inheritance of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	72	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20
Evening	100, 67	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21

### Readings for the Week of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Visit of the Magi—Matthew 2:1-12	Is. 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
Monday	The Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13-15	Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28	Rom. 1:1-17
Tuesday	The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents—Matthew 2:16-23	Ezek. 2:1-3:11	Rom. 1:18-32
Wednesday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Ezek. 3:12-27	Rom. 2:1-16
Thursday	John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord—Matthew 3:1-12	Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32	Rom. 2:17-29
Friday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	Ezek. 33:1-20	Rom. 3:1-18
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Ezek. 34:1-24	Rom. 3:19-31
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Ezek. 36:13-28	Rom. 4:1-25

### The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer— the Seventh Petition and the Conclusion

What is the Seventh Petition? <b>But deliver us from evil</b>	Preschool +
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.	Second Grade +
What is the Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer? <b>For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.</b>	Preschool +

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."

Third Grade +

**Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week**

**Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
- Friday:** Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

**In Our Prayers this Week**

The families of Guenther Bollmeyer, Rev. Edwin Suelflow and Noah LeVan, (friend of the Frerkings) who mourn their deaths.  
Carl Duwe in therapy at Linden Grove.  
Wayne Loose in therapy at Franciscan Woods.  
Phyllis, sister of Rosie Kopling; Jeff Imse, friend of the Goltermanns, and Kim Loontjer in hospice care.

**Collect for the week of the Epiphany of Our Lord:**

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of the Week**

**"The People That in Darkness Sat" (stanzas 1-4)**

**412**

**Looking forward to the Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 13, 2019**

**Hymns:** 404, 406, 405, 487, 874, 603

**Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17:** Since the first promise of salvation, "the feet" have always been used to depict how Satan's authority would be vanquished by the bruised feet of the Seed of the Woman. In His suffering and death, Satan is "trampled underfoot," loses his authority to condemn us, and the promised land of heaven is open to all believers. So the priests stand in the waters of the Jordan with the Ark of the Covenant, even as Jesus the beloved Son of the Father stands in the Jordan to be baptized by John. The waters of divine judgment are parted and life with God in the promised land is restored.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31:** God confounds the wisdom and power of Satan and this world by calling weak men to preach the glories of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, "that no flesh should glory in His presence." For the Christian and the Christian minister, Christ alone is our "righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." By Baptism we are placed "in Christ Jesus," so that everything that He is and has done for us becomes our own.

**Matthew 3:13-17:** John objects to baptizing Jesus, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" John is right! He and all sinners must be "washed," or "baptized," by Jesus or they cannot be saved; but the Sacrament of Holy Baptism has power to save only because Jesus was "baptized to fulfill all righteousness." In His Baptism, the sinless Son of God, who had become man, aligned Himself with sinful man and took responsibility for the transgressions of the world. "He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us" in the waters of Holy Baptism, that He might fulfill all righteousness in His death for sinful man upon the cross. Now our Baptism has the power to save. As Jesus received the iniquity of us all in His Baptism, so we receive His righteousness in our Baptism. God the Father is delighted with this "happy exchange" and declares us His beloved for Jesus' sake.