

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, through December 29, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — (*Christmas Psalm 96* The walk through the psalms resumes after Christmas) “The 96th psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ in the world, in which there will be nothing but joy and praise...In it, all the nations, lands, people, forests, seas, trees are called to worship. They should praise and thank the Lord because He judges and rules with righteousness and truth. That is, He delivers us from sins and all that sin brings with it, such as death, hell, the power of the devil, and all that is evil. This is the new song of the new kingdom from new creatures, from a new people, not born of the Law or works but born of God and Spirit. These are nothing less than miracles, done in Christ Jesus.” Martin Luther

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: Our Redeemer Is Born to Shed His Blood for Us!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: *John 1:14*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Psalm 96 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Thanks to You, O Father of light, for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to establish a kingdom of grace and forgiveness among mankind on this earth. By Your Spirit make us new creatures in heart, mind, soul, and sentiment, and teach us to sing the new song of this new kingdom with rejoicing and gladness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	24	122	19	2	116	34	2	96
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	132, 114	98, 96	119:1-24, 27	19, 121	110, 111	132, 97

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Advent 4: John Prepares for the Redeemer—John 1:19-28	
Monday	The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth—Isaiah 7:10-14	1 John 4:7-16
Tuesday	Christmas Eve: The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-20	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	Christmas Day: The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18	Titus 3:4-7
Thursday	St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60	Matthew 23:34-39
Friday	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-26	1 John 1:1—2:2
Saturday	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Matthew 2:13-18	Jeremiah 31:15-17

The Catechism: The Creed—The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

Preschool +

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

What does this mean?

First Grade +

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

Prayers: In Our Prayers at Peace and the Collects for the Week

In Our Prayers this Week

The sick: Pete Greschner, recuperating from surgery;

Mason Perez, infant great-nephew of Mark and Melody Ruhbusch, waiting for a heart transplant;

Roger Laubenstein and Rev. Karl Fabrizius in cancer treatment.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler, Francis Sidwell, and Julie, great aunt of Katie and Derek Larson

Collect for the week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent: (for December 22 through the morning of December 24)

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord (December 25)

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr (December 26)

Heavenly Father, in the midst of our sufferings for the sake of Christ grant us grace to follow the example of the first martyr, Stephen, that we also may look to the One who suffered and was crucified on our behalf and pray for those who do us wrong; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (December 27)

Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed in the doctrine of Your blessed apostle and evangelist John, may come to the light of everlasting life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (December 28)

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through 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

"O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

TLH 81 or LSB 372

Looking forward to the First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2019

Hymns: 381, 389, 519, 546, 362, 937

Isaiah 11:1-5: Jesus' human lineage is from the stock of Jesse, the father of King David. Isaiah proclaims the work of the Triune God that surrounds the incarnation and ministry of the Son of God. The Holy Spirit from the Father will rest upon Him and enable Him to be faithful and to delight in performing the work of righteousness for our salvation.

Galatians 4:1-7: Paul declares that the birth of Christ came about according to the Scriptures "in the fullness of the times." God had directed all things in the history of the world so that His Son was born at just the right time for the salvation of the world. He was born under the obligations of God's Law in order to do for us what we were unable to do for ourselves. By His perfect obedience to the Law, Christ Jesus secures our redemption from sin, death, and the power of Satan.

Luke 2:22-40: Forty days after our Lord's birth He was presented in the temple at the time of Mary's purification from childbirth. At this visit the holy family meets the aged Simeon who prophesies that having received the Lord's Christ he is now able to depart this life in peace. Simeon speaks of Christ's death when he tells Mary that a sword will pierce through her own soul. Simeon's song, the Nunc Dimittis, is sung by us at the conclusion of the reception of the Lord's Supper. As Simeon received the Lord Jesus at His presentation in the temple, so we receive the Lord Jesus in the Lord's Supper and are prepared to "depart this life" according to God's will with the full assurance of sins forgiven "for [our] eyes have seen the Lord's salvation." The aged woman Anna, who had engaged in humble service in the temple for years, also rejoiced in the Lord's presentation and confessed Him to all who longed for redemption and salvation. Simeon and Anna give us a picture of what it is to be a Christian. We cling to Christ for salvation and boldly confess Him to the world in our vocation.