

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the First Sunday after Christmas  
 December 29, 2019, through January 5, 2020

**Catechesis Notes for the Week** — (Christmas Psalm 98 The walk through the psalms resumes after Christmas) “The 98<sup>th</sup> psalm, like the preceding psalm, is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, which extends into all the world. It also calls us to be joyful and to praise God for His salvation, that is, to preach and give thanks for the redemption given us through Christ. Here then is worship—not offerings given in Jerusalem, but preaching and thanksgiving that He is King in righteousness over the entire world, that is, that He has redeemed us from sin and death by Himself alone, without our merits.”—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: My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time had come,  
 God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,  
<sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law,  
 that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Psalm 98 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm, Honor, praise, and thanksgiving to You, O Christ, our God and Savior, for all Your wonderful works and numberless blessings with which You enrich us. Fill us with Your Spirit and create in us new hearts, that we may rejoice over Your works and gifts all our days, and at our latter end receive us into that kingdom of light in which we shall follow You wherever You go; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	96	93	98	97	48	111	103	40
Evening	132, 97	89:1-18, 19-52	45, 96	99, 8	45, 29	107, 15	93, 97	39, 41

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Christmas 1:</b> The Presentation—Luke 2:22-40	
Monday	David's Son Will Build the House of the Lord—2 Samuel 7:1-16	Galatians 4:1-7
Tuesday	<b>New Year's Eve:</b> Luke 12:35-40	Romans 8:31b-39
Wednesday	<b>Circumcision and Name of Jesus:</b> Luke 2:21	Galatians 3:23-29
Thursday	“Do Not Be Afraid to Go to Egypt”—Genesis 46:1-7	1 Peter 4:12-19
Friday	The Ark of the Covenant into the Temple—1 Kings 8:6-13	Romans 12:1-5
Saturday	Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12

### The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

First Grade +

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.  
On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead,  
and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.  
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

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

#### **Prayer on the Third Article**

*O Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son to give life and salvation to the world, and who, together with the Father and the Son, we worship and glorify as the only true God, receive our thanks and praise for proclaiming Christ to us through the preaching of the Gospel and gifts of the holy sacraments. Faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, and love for God and our enemies are all Your creations and gifts to us through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Preserve the holy Christian Church among us through the faithful preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Bless the communion of saints that every baptized Christian, sharing in Christ's love through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, might abide in Christ and bear witness to His love in all that we do and say. Give us firm hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, so that we might faithfully endure persecution for Jesus' sake and suffer all, even death itself, rather than fall away from Him who gave His life for us. Hear us, O Holy Spirit, for You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

#### **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 First Sunday after Christmas:**

*O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

#### **Collect for the New Year:**

*Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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**

**"In His Temple Now Behold Him"**

**LSB 519**

#### **Looking forward to the Epiphany of Our Lord**

**January 5, 2020**

**Hymns: 370, 412, 397, 399, 396, 394, 874, 374**

**Isaiah 60:1-6:** When Isaiah says "Your light" he means the Gospel which sets you free from death and sin. These words arouse believers, even the weak, so we are not offended by persecution, or by the fact that there are so few Christians. Isaiah says that in spite of every dark thing we see around us, there is a light. And the brightness of this divine light rises in our world by preaching the Gospel. Summary: Believe while you have the light, and make use of it in an accepted time. Diligently learn and study the Word and grow in its understanding, so that we may be filled with the light of this glory. Those who regard this light as a treasure think all the worldly glories to be nothing. This is what we see in the martyrs. By comparison with the Word they spurned all things. Therefore He admonishes us not to pass this preaching by in vain, for in it there is announced the opening of heaven, the closing of hell, and the destruction of death. In this way He wants us to hold fast to the Word. —Martin Luther

**Ephesians 3:1-12:** The Apostle Paul catechizes the Church in the nature of the Gospel and its effect upon the world. The mystery of the saving Word is that it is based entirely upon grace alone and not human merit. This is why the promise of salvation is extended to all. The Gospel, therefore, breaks down the wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile, the sinner and God.

**Matthew 2:1-12:** The magi from the East who came to worship Jesus, the King of the Jews, were ancient astronomers, scientists, or "wisemen" as they are sometimes called. The star that they saw rise in the East was a sign from God, according to the Scriptures, which led them to Jerusalem and then Bethlehem to worship Jesus. The Holy Gospel for Epiphany reveals Jesus the dramatic contrast between faith born of the Word of God and the wickedness of unbelief which refuses to hear the call to repentance and trust in the Messiah of Holy Scripture. The amazing gifts of the wisemen illustrate that they knew who He was. Gold confesses Him as the King of Kings and was used in Jewish worship in the construction of the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. Frankincense confesses Him as the priest of all priests and was used by the priest in confessing sin and crying out to the Lord before the Altar of Incense. Myrrh was anointing oil used for the anointing of kings and priests, and for the preparing of bodies for burial. It confesses Him to be the Messiah who came into the world to make the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Epiphany reveals Jesus as the Savior of all people, Jew and Gentile alike.