

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas
January 3 through January 10, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 104:16-35—Luther on Psalm 104—“The 104th psalm is a psalm of thanks for all the works that God had accomplished in heaven and on earth, beyond those done for us here on earth. He has surely ordered all things according to a wise place to produce works, fruits, and crops. The psalmist recounts these one after the other: the heavens—full of light and outstretched as a tapestry without post or rafters; the clouds—an arch without foundation or pillar; the wind flying without wings; the angels going and coming, appearing like a wind or a flame. Thus sings the psalmist. He finds his desires and joy in God’s creations, which are so wonderfully made and so beautifully ordered together. But who pays attention to this or sees that this is so? Only faith and the Spirit.”—from *Reading the Psalms with Luther*.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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: Christ Is with His Church as She Sojourns through Persecution.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 15:7

**If you abide in Me,
and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire,
and it shall be done for you.**

Psalm 104:16-35 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: *God, who in six days made all the creatures and ordered them for the benefit of man, You are worthy of praise. Teach us to know that You are the Author of all that is, and grant that we may never abuse Your creation to our own destruction, but use all of creation to Your glory and our welfare, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	111	103	99	72	42, 43	45	48, 49	51
Evening	107, 15	93, 97	96, 110	100, 67	44	46, 47	50	52, 53

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13-23	
Monday	Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation—Luke 2:21-24	Leviticus 12:1-8
Tuesday	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child—Luke 2:25-40	Isaiah 60:1-6
Wednesday	The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12	Numbers 24:15-19
Thursday	The Flight into Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matthew 2:13-23	Jer. 31:10-17
Friday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Deut. 6:4-9
Saturday	I Have Put My Spirit Upon Him—Isaiah 42:1-7	1 Cor. 1:26-31

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

<i>What is the Seventh Petition?</i> But deliver us from evil	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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 +
<i>What is the Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer?</i> For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean? (or, What is meant by the word “Amen”?)</i> 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

Prayer on the Seventh Petition

Father in heaven, 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 Yourself in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer on the Word “Amen”—The Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have commanded us to pray according to the promises of the Lord’s Prayer and have promised to hear us. Give us firm faith in Your Word so that we pray with confidence, saying “Yes, yes, it shall be so”; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Rosanne Fell, Rebecca Ligrow (1/2); Marlene Schaefer (1/3); Hannah Uttenreither, Joanne Smith, Victor Stanley (1/4); Terry O’Neill, Maria Stemke (1/5); Pam Kirk, Bill Schaefer (1/6); Drew Franklin, Dick Grono, (1/7); Susan Gehlbach (1/8).

Wedding Anniversaries: Fritz and Robin Theilacker (1/4); Rich and Melinda Burger (1/5).

The sick:

All those recovering from the Coronavirus.

Jim Von Dissen, nephew of Eunice Dissen, hospitalized for pneumonia and other medical issues.

Zack, friend of Angela Christopherson, recuperating from brain surgery.

Harold Kampin hospitalized for observation – heart issues.

Duane Perry in therapy.

Bob Corso recuperating from a recent hospitalization for intestinal ailments.

Carl Duwe, in hospice care; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Jim Nitsche, Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Jill Franklin, and Allison Witte in treatment for cancer.

Collect for the week of the Second Sunday after Christmas:

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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 Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6):

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

“Within the Father’s House” (stanzas 1-2)

410

Looking forward to the Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

Hymns: 600, 406, 404, 594, 405, 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.