

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas  
January 2 through January 9, 2022*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 140: A Prayer for Deliverance from Evil**—Psalm 140 reminds us of the Seventh Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, “Deliver us from evil.” When David prayed this psalm, he recognized that behind evil and wicked men was the father of evil, Satan himself. Evil comes at us on every side to try to destroy both our lives and our faith. David teaches us that the Lord God alone is our defense against evil. He will defend us. He will protect us. He will give us the victory by sustaining our faith in Christ and by preserving us in His good and gracious will. The Lord will also execute judgment against those who have rejected God’s Word and who persecute the faith of Christians. He will establish His truth so that the lies of the wicked do not prevail. David concludes his prayer in confidence: “I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted....Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name.”

## **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: The Lord Comforts Us with His Grace in the Midst of Sorrow!**

### **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 140 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Lord God, almighty, when Satan inspires evil men to rise up against our faith and the confession of Your holy Church, defend and preserve us, so that we do not lose heart but persevere in the confidence of Your protection and safety in 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	48	111	103	99	72	73	75, 76	78
Evening	45, 29	107, 15	93, 97	96, 110	100, 67	74	77	79

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>The Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13-23</b>	
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—Matthew 2:13-15	1 Peter 4:12-19
Friday	The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents—Matthew 2:16-23	Jeremiah 31:10-17
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Isaiah 42:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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

<i>What is the Seventh Petition?</i> <b>But deliver us from evil.</b>	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> <b>For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.</b>	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**

**The Office of the Ministry:** *The Lord’s blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and Headmaster.*

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

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

**Thanksgiving for Healing Mercies:** Jeremy LaFore for continued recovery from paralysis; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

**The Sick:** *All those in the congregation suffering with Covid.*

**Cancer Treatment:** Nancy Thiele, friend of Polly Joubert and Jon and Marty Bruss, diagnosed with acute leukemia, Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer), Jim Nitzsche (lung cancer); James Loker (liver cancer), Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).

**Hospice Care:** Fern Warfel, sister-in-law of Carol Bender

**Those Who Mourn:** Family of Brett Arnold, friend of the Trapps; Family of Dennis Mack, brother of Verla Gatchell.

### **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**

#### **“The People That in Darkness Sat” (stanzas 1-4)**

412

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

**January 9, 2022**

**Hymns: 398, 406, 405, 590, 596, 401, 601**

**Isaiah 42:1-7:** *At Jesus’ baptism, He not only became the sin-bearer for the whole world, but He was also anointed with the Holy Spirit to do His work faithfully unto the death of the cross. He brought forth justice in His obedient death. He did not cry out in despair but comforted the downtrodden with the Gospel. The “bruised reed” or “smoking flax” of trembling faith He did not break or snuff out. Isaiah links our creation and salvation together in Christ and speaks eloquently of Jesus’ ministry: “Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out...I, the Lord, have called You [His Son] in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles to open blind eyes.” God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, held Jesus and enabled Him to be faithful unto death for our salvation.*

**I 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.*