

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021, through January 2, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 139: A Prayer of Comfort from the Lord’s Abiding Presence—There is no place we can travel where the Lord is not present for the help, comfort, and salvation of His people who believe in Him. He searches our hearts. He knows everything about us. He is acquainted with all our ways. He knows every word we speak before we utter it. We cannot hide from His presence. We cannot fully grasp the wonder of His omniscience. He orders the affairs of our life, so that we are drawn to Him to seek His help in repentant faith. He has made each of us individually in our mother’s womb. He knew us before we were born. Our days are ordered in His book. His thoughts toward each of us are precious and more than we can number. We ask Him to make His will our own and to lead us each day in humble contrition and repentance, and in prayer to seek His guidance. If there is any wicked way in us, we pray that He would turn us to the good and to the way of everlasting life.

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: We Are Called to Bear Witness to Christ!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,
teaching and admonishing one another
in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalm 139 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You formed my inward parts. I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. How precious are Your thoughts to me! Search me, O God, and know my heart. Lead me in the way everlasting, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	116	34	2	96	93	98	97	48
Evening	119:1-24, 27	19, 121	110, 111	132, 97	89:1-18, 19-52	45, 96	99, 8	45, 29

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60	Matthew 23:34-39
Monday	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-25	1 John 1:1—2:2
Tuesday	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Matthew 2:13-18	Jeremiah 31:15-17
Wednesday	“Do Not Be Afraid to Go to Egypt”—Genesis 46:1-7	1 Peter 4:12-19
Thursday	The Ark of the Covenant into the Temple—1 Kings 8:6-13	Romans 12:1-5
Friday	New Year’s Eve: Luke 12:35-40	Romans 8:31b-39
Saturday	The Circumcision of Our Lord: Luke 2:21	Galatians 3:23-29

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 +

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: Lee Neujahr (12/27), Dave Steinhilb, Eunice Neujahr (12/28), Andrew Schneider (12/30),
Brian and Rachel Galles, Nicola Giordano (12/31), Keith Gierach, Rachel Ruehle (1/1).

Wedding Anniversaries: Paul and Judy Woehrmann (12/27).

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: Jon Bruss, awaiting pacemaker surgery; Walter Ikenberry in treatment for PANS and

Lily Seifferlein recovering from a severed finger, grandchildren of Jim and Cathy Verage;

Doug Pom and Tom Pinzl recovering from hernia surgery; Karen Leach, recovering from spinal surgery;

Brett Arnold hospitalized and recovering from kidney transplant surgery;

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: The family of Luise Bollmeyer (Luise died in the Lord on Wednesday, December 22)

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 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.

Collect for 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 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.

Collect for the New Year (December 31):

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.

Collect for the Circumcision and Name of Jesus (January 1):

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; 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 Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly"

897

Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

Hymns: 385, 969 "Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band, 517 (St. 1, 9, 3), 546, 725, 389, 381

Genesis 46:1-7: Joseph brought his father Jacob and his family to Egypt according to the Lord's will and the Lord sustained them there with His promise: "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

1 Peter 4:12-19: The Apostle Peter encourages us to rejoice when we suffer for our faith and for doing what is right in our vocation. At such times we are partakers of Christ's suffering and are confessing our faith in Him.

Matthew 2:13-23: The Second Sunday after Christmas does not occur very often in the Church Year. When it does, it gives us opportunity to see, even more vividly, that Jesus was born to suffer and die. Herod's murderous plots against Him cause Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt according to the Lord's Word. In the slaughter of the Holy Innocents we see the depth of human wickedness and Jesus' future fate as the innocent One who will suffer for the guilty. In the Holy family's sojourn out of Egypt and avoidance of Judea, we see how God's providence directed Him to live in Nazareth of Galilee. All things unfolded for our salvation according to the good and gracious will of God and according to the Scriptures.