

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Circumcision of Our Lord  
January 1 through January 8, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Seventh Petition—“Rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation.”** When we pray the Seventh Petition, “but deliver us from evil,” we might be tempted to conclude that we are asking that “evil” never rear its head in our lives. This misses the mark. Evil will come into our lives in the form of Satan’s attacks upon our “body and soul, possessions and reputation.” Holy Scripture makes this clear. We will not be spared from being attacked. God wills that the attacks of evil against us serve the cause of faith. “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.” Therefore, in the Seventh Petition we are asking that God would preserve our faith in Christ when we are assaulted by the Evil One, and teach us to commend ourselves—body, soul, and spirit, with all that we are and have—into His gracious keeping. The Word of our Lord teaches us that He will not forsake His own. If He allows evil to enter our lives, then He does so for His good purposes and for the exercise of faith in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This petition promises the Christian: “God will not allow the Evil One or any adversity to overwhelm you.” By this petition He invites you to trust this promise and to call upon Him in your need. In this way faith in Christ is active.

## 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: You Shall Call His Name Jesus!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Psalm 8 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, Your name is excellent in all the earth for You have loved us poor and undeserving sinners with an everlasting love that moved You to give Your Son into death for our salvation. You have made us a little lower than the angels, but in Christ You have exalted us to Your right hand and given us dominion over all the works of Your hands, having put all things under our feet. For all Your exceedingly great and precious blessings we give You thanks and praise through 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	97	48	111	103	99	72	65	66
Evening	99, 8	45, 29	107, 15	93, 97	96, 110	100, 67	63, 64	67, 70

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Circumcision of Our Lord:</b> Luke 2:21	Numbers 6:22-27
Monday	<b>No School</b> —Purification of Mary & 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	<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> (celebrated)—Matthew 2:1-12	Numbers 24:15-19
Thursday	The Flight to Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matt. 2:13-23	Jeremiah 31:10-17
Friday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Saturday	Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 42:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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

What is the Seventh Petition? <b>But deliver us from evil.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? 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 +
What is the Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer? <b>For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.</b>	Preschool +

What does this mean? (or, What is meant by the word “Amen”?)  
 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.”

**Prayers: Catechism Prayers, the Collects for the Week, In Our Prayers at Peace**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord’s Prayer)**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Chris Clark, Keith Gierach, Rachel Ruehle (1/1), Rosanne Fell, Rebecca Ligrow (1/2); Joanne Smith, Victor Stanley (1/4); Terry O’Neill, Maria Stemke (1/5); Pam Kirk, Bill Schaefer (1/6); Drew Franklin, Felicity Daleiden, Elaina Kerner (1/7).

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

**The Sick:** Rev. Jon Leider in rehab recovering from pneumonia; Bob Piper in a rehabilitation hospital following a head injury; Bob Rothe, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**Hospice Care:** Rev. DuWayne Schneider (friend of the Koplings).

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.**

**Hymn of the Week**

**“O Savior of Our Fallen Race” (stanzas 1-2)**

403

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

**January 8, 2023**

**Hymns: 406, 405, 600, 599, 404, 922**

**Isaiah 42:1-7:** The prophecy from Isaiah proclaims Jesus to be the Father’s Servant in whom He delights and upon whom the Holy Spirit rests. What the Father said through Isaiah we see fulfilled at Jesus’ baptism in the Father’s word of approval and in the descent of the Holy Spirit who anointed Him. Isaiah elaborates on our Lord as the righteous Son of God and the ministry of Jesus: “a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench.” Jesus is described as “a covenant for the people” and “a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the prison-house of darkness.” Jesus public ministry began at His baptism where He is revealed as the Father’s faithful Son and minister of 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.