

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the First Sunday after Epiphany
 January 7, 2024, through January 14, 2024

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 into 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. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294 of Lutheran Service Book.

Theme: Lord, I Love the Habitation of Your House!

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 100 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; 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	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68
Evening	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	
Monday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Captured—1 Samuel 3:21—4:18 (19-22)	Philippians 4:4-9
Tuesday	The Ark Brings Judgment upon the Philistines—1 Samuel 5:1—6:1	Philippians 4:10-23
Wednesday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Returned to Israel—1 Samuel 6:1—7:1	Colossians 1:1-8
Thursday	Samuel Judges Israel—1 Samuel 7:2-17	Colossians 1:9-18
Friday	The Woman at the Well—John 4:1-30, 39-42	Jeremiah 2:9-13
Saturday	The Lord Shows Moses His Glory—Exodus 33:12-23	Ephesians 5:22-33

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

What is the Seventh Petition? But deliver us from evil.	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? For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.	Preschool +

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

Third Grade +

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: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the First Sunday after Epiphany:

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You and grant that they both perceive and know what things they ought to do and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal Anniversaries: Drew Franklin, Felicity Daleiden, Elaina Kerner (1/7), Susan Gehlbach, Reuben Roe (1/8), Frank Koplring, Holly Venkitaswaran (1/11), Kyle Knoerr, Kathy Stoltenberg, Sarah Meyle, Cheryl Fischer (1/13).

The Sick: George Kaminski, Charles Schwen, Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano); Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig in cancer treatment.

Those in Hospice: Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe, Duane Schmudlach, and Karen (Mark Thoni’s Aunt)

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Bob Jahnke (brother of Betsy Banasik) and August Hottinger (brother-in-law of Sharon Murphy).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Within the Father’s House” (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

Hymns: 408, 402, 394, 533, 631, 632

Exodus 33:12-23: The Lord promises to go with Moses and His people Israel, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” In the same way, the Lord promises His gracious presence will go with us and that our security rests upon Him who is “the Rock of our salvation.”

Ephesians 5:22-33: St. Paul teaches us that our marriages as Christians are but shadows of the ultimate marriage between Christ and His bride the Church. It is this marriage that is both eternal and the fulfillment of all that God desired for man in the creation of the world. By Holy Baptism, the washing of water and the Word, we are made bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh and share in all the life and love of Him who is the Church’s Bridegroom.

John 2:1-11: The first miracle that Jesus performed was turning water into wine. Many might think of this miracle as an insignificant event. Not so! John writes: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” What did the disciples learn to believe about the Messiah from this “sign”? They learned that God had not abandoned the sinful human race but had come to rescue it – as the heavenly bridegroom who had come for His bride the Church. Just as sin came into the world within the institution of marriage by the transgression of the first man, Adam, and thereby infected the entire human race, so God “manifested His glory” through the second Adam, Jesus, who would reverse the effects of the fall and save mankind, marriage, and family from destruction. God had not abandoned the people He created or the institutions of marriage and family but has come to redeem them. He is now the true Man and the true Bridegroom. In His body the Church He creates an eternal family of love in the forgiveness of sins.