

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 5, through January 12, 2025

**Catechesis Notes for the Week** — **“Rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation.”** This is the last week of our intensive meditation upon the Lord’s Prayer. 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 answer 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 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.

## 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 Have Seen His Star in the East and Have Come to Worship Him!

### 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 72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Eternal God and Father, You have revealed Your Son as the only Savior from sin, and called us to the blessed knowledge of salvation. We thank You that You have preserved Your truth among us despite all the wiles and assaults of the Wicked One; and we beseech You, keep us evermore in purity of doctrine and send forth Your Word among all people, accompanying it with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit, that many may be brought to know Your Son and obtain the inheritance of everlasting life; 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	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2
Evening	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12</b>	
Monday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Tuesday	The Death of Elisha—2 Kings 13:10-25	1 Cor. 14:20-40
Wednesday	Israel Is Carried Away by the Assyrians—2 Kings 17:5-18 (19-41)	1 Cor. 15:1-28
Thursday	King Uzziah of Judah—2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-23	1 Cor. 15:28-58
Friday	Isaiah Is Called to Preach in Israel and Judah—Isaiah 6:1-13	1 Cor. 16:1-24
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—1 Kings 8:6-13	Romans 12:1-5

### The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer — 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"?)

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 Epiphany of Our Lord:

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.

#### 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:** Terry O'Neill, Maria Stenke (1/5), Pam Kirk, Bill Schaefer (1/6), Drew Franklin, Felicity Daleiden, Elaina Kerner (1/7), Susan Gehlbach, Reuben Roe (1/8), Frank Koplring, Holly Venkitaswaran (1/11).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Rich and Melinda Burger (1/5).

**The Sick:** Kathy Federman, Donna Franklin, Mark Gretzinger, and Bob Corso recovering from surgery; Rachel Preus (wife of Samuel Preus), suffering with breast cancer during the third trimester of pregnancy; Kathy, sister of Peggy Lundberg, undergoing a heart scan for ongoing heart and abdominal pain; Kevin Kehres, Jerry Freckmann and Scotty Fittshu in rehab; Tempy McCombe, Steven Jahnke, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), Rev. Luke Boehringer, Rev. David Groth, Jean Reuss, and Steve Hayes in cancer treatment.

**Those in hospice:** Bob Ruess, (Jennifer Duessler's sister-in-law's father and Tom Ogden (Cheryl Gretzinger's uncle)

**Those Who Mourn:** friends and family of Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano)

#### Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

#### Hymn of the Week

#### "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (stanzas 6-9)

766

#### Looking forward to the First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 2025

Hymns: 546, 410, 545, 865, 864, 863

**I Kings 8:6-13:** The Old Testament reading for Christmas morning described the building of the Ark of the Covenant. Now, on the First Sunday after Epiphany, the Ark of the Covenant is brought into the Temple of the Lord. Jesus is the true Ark of the Covenant for He completes and fulfills all to which the Old Testament pointed. He now "tabernacles" among us through His Word and Sacraments.

**Romans 12:1-5:** As Jesus became the Temple of the Holy Spirit, so every Christian is a Temple of the Holy Spirit. "He was poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ, our Savior." We are one body in Christ and the Holy Spirit transforms our minds and hearts in Christ Jesus that we might offer the living sacrifices of love and service in the body of Christ.

**Luke 2:41-52:** Luke alone records the occasion of Jesus, at 12-years of age, lingering in the Temple in Jerusalem after the Passover both listening to the teachers of the Law and asking them questions. At the age of 12 Jesus begins to take on the calling of a man by occupying Himself with God's Word. Mary and Joseph were confused. Why would Jesus linger? Why had He not returned with them to Nazareth? The words of the prophet Malachi come to mind, "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant whom you delight in" (Malachi 3:1). It had been the Passover Feast. It was now the third day. One cannot help but think about Jesus' death on Good Friday and His resurrection on the third day. He is the true Temple of the Lord. He is the place of God's saving presence. And after His resurrection He will bring us into His saving presence through the preaching of the Gospel. Jesus returned to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and submitted Himself to them. But at the age of 12 we see a foretaste of His Messianic ministry.