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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Twelve Days of Christmas  
December 29, 2015–January 4, 2016*

## 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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of “Leader” (L) and the family the role of “Congregant” (C). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**Theme: *My Soul Magnifies the Lord, and My Spirit Has Rejoiced in God My Savior***

### INVOCATION

**L** In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### APOSTLES’ CREED

### VERSE

*John 10:27,28*

**L** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

**C** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

### DAILY PSALM

*The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.*

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Morning	122	33	50	19	2	116	34
Evening	40,67	85,91	14,16	132,114	98,96	119:1-24,27	19,121

### PSALM PRAYER

**L** Lord God, heavenly Father, who to comfort us poor sinners has ordained and sent Your Son as our righteous King and Savior that He might redeem us from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil; we most heartily beseech You, to so enlighten and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may ever know and confess Christ to be our King and Savior, and, firmly trusting in Him alone, obtain eternal life; 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.

**C** Amen.

<b>L</b> What is the Second Article?	
<b>C</b> I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.	<i>Preschool +</i>
<b>L</b> What does this mean?	
<b>C</b> I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.	<i>First Grade +</i>
<b>C</b> He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.  All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.  This is most certainly true.	<i>Second Grade +</i>

## DAILY READINGS

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
<b>Tuesday</b>	Manasseh, king of Judah	2 Kings 21:1-18	Micah 1-2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Josiah finds the Book of the Law	2 Kings 22:1-20	Micah 3-4
<b>Thursday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 17:1-7	Micah 5
<b>Friday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Epistle	Galatians 4:4-7	Micah 6
<b>Saturday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Gospel	Luke 1:68-75	Micah 7
<b>Sunday</b>	Josiah renews the covenant	2 Kings 23:1-30	Nahum 1
<b>Monday</b>	The Fall of Jerusalem	2 Kings 24:20b-25:21	Nahum 2-3

## PRAYERS

*Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas:*

**L** Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Daily Themes for Prayer

*Tuesday: Pray 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.*

Wednesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling sin.*

Thursday: *Pray 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 single persons, that they may be at peace in their lives and realize God's plan for them.*

Friday: *Pray 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.*

Saturday: *Pray 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.*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*

Monday: *Pray 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.*

### ***In Our Prayers this Week***

Our shut-ins, that they may be comforted in their loneliness by your gracious presence.

Pastor Bob Smith of Hastings, NE, as he travels to Vietnam on behalf of the Synod to teach and preach the Gospel news.

All those who travel over this holiday week, that they may be kept safe from harm and brought safely home again.

Zach Richie, for safe-keeping and God's blessings as he makes plans to move to Duluth, MN to begin a new job.

Tilly Hansen, who was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on December 27.

Pastor Phillip Hirsch, as he begins the process of taking over the duties of District President of the Nebraska District.

Delores Adelung, as she celebrates her birthday this week.

Randy & Vicki Webb and Roland & Delores Adelung, as they celebrate their wedding anniversaries this week.

Judah Seelow, as he remembers and continues to draw peace in Christ from his baptism day.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**☐ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

# LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

## Morning

**C** In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Evening

**C** In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Now Sing We Now Rejoice | CW 34

CHRISTMAS

## 34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

1 Now sing we, now re-joice, Now raise to heav'n our  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can-not rise to  
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di-  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n-ly

voice; He from whom joy stream-eth Poor  
 thee. Cheer my wea-ried spir-it, O  
 vine. Death o'er us had reign-ed Through  
 ground? Where the an-gels sing-ing With

in a man-ger lies; Not so bright-ly and  
 pure and ho-ly Child; Through thy grace and  
 sin and van-i-ty; He for us ob-  
 all his saints u-nite, Sweet-est prais-es

beam-eth The sun in yon-der skies.  
 mer-it, Blest Je-sus, Lord most mild,  
 tain-ed Ed-ter-nal joy on high.  
 bring-ing In heav'n-ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav-ior art! Thou my Sav-ior art!  
 Draw me-un-to thee! Draw me-un-to thee!  
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
 Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

<sup>1</sup> Luther, in his Small Catechism, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"