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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 5-11, 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: Rejoice in the Lord Always!**

### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

### APOSTLES' CREED

### VERSE

*1 Timothy 4:4,5*

**L** Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

**C** for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

### 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
<b>Morning</b>	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	24
<b>Evening</b>	40,67	85,91	14,16	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72	25, 110

### PSALM PRAYER

**L** O God, even as You have so faithfully restored Your people in former days, so restore us by Your grace and mercy. Teach us to hear everything that You speak to us, that we might live out all our days in true repentance and fervent faith in our dear Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C** Amen.

<b>L</b> What is the Fourth Peition? <b>C</b> Give us today our daily bread.	Preschool +
<b>L</b> What does this mean? <b>C</b> God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.	First Grade +
<b>L</b> What, then, is meant by daily bread? <b>C</b> Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.	Second Grade +

## DAILY READINGS

*In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.*

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jesus' preincarnate existence	John 1:1-5, 9-13	Habakuk 1-2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jesus human ancestry	Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23b-38	Habakuk 3
<b>Thursday</b>	The First Lesson for the Festival of Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	Zephaniah 1-2
<b>Friday</b>	The Epistle Lesson for the Festival of Epiphany	Ephesians 3:2-12	Zephaniah 3
<b>Saturday</b>	The Gospel for the Festival of Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-12	Haggai 1
<b>Sunday</b>	The Angel Gabriel's announcement to Zechariah	Luke 1:5-25	Haggai 2
<b>Monday</b>	The Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary	Luke 1:26-38	Zechariah 1-2

## PRAYERS

*Collect for the Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord:*

- L** Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through 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.*

*The congregation of Christ, Grand Island, NE, as the Lord has led a pastor to accept the call to serve them as their shepherd.*

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

*Sandy Swain, and her husband Frank, for safe-keeping and God's blessings as they move to The Villages, FL.*

*Eleanor Pieschke, Aaron Haas, Matthew Brei, as they celebrate their birthdays this week.*

*Mannie & Shauna Reinsch, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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 FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY

*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* | CW 79

1 How love-ly shines the Morn-ing Star! The na-tions see and  
 2 O high-est joy by mor-tals won, True Son of God and  
 3 O might-y Fa-ther, in your Son, You loved me ere you  
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be-gin-nings  
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of

hail a-far The light in Ju-dah shin-ing,  
 Mar-y's Son, The high-born King of a-ges!  
 had be-gun This an-cient world's foun-da-tion,  
 with-out end, The first and last, e-ter-nal!  
 mu-sic ring In God's high prais-es blend-ed.

O Da-vid's Son of Ja-cob's race, My Bride-groom  
 In your blest bod-y let me be, E'en as the  
 Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in  
 And you at length—O glo-rious grace— Will take me  
 Christ will be with me all the way, To-day, to-

and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin-ing,  
 branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup-ply-ing,  
 spir-it him I see, I joy in trib-u-la-tion,  
 to that ho-ly place, The home of joys su-per-nal,  
 mor-row, ev-ry day Till trav-ling days are end-ed.

Low-ly, Ho-ly, Great and glo-rious, O vic-to-rious  
 Sigh-ing, Cry-ing this! For the sa-vor Of your fa-vor  
 What bliss Is this! He is liv-ing, To me giv-ing  
 A-men, A-men! Come and meet me, Quick-ly greet me!  
 Sing out, Ring out Tri-umph glo-rious, O vic-to-rious

Prince of gra-cies, Fill-ing all the heav'n-ly pla-ces,  
 Rest-ing nev-er Till I rest in you for-ev-er,  
 Life for-ev-er; Noth-ing from him can sev-er,  
 With deep yearn-ing, Lord, I look for your re-turn-ing,  
 Chos-en na-tion; Praise the God of your sal-va-tion.

<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.'"