
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord
January 2-8, 2017*

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 "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord Always!

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Fifth and Sixth Petitions—Faith in Christ's Righteousness Brings True Freedom—Faith in Christ's righteousness, which is a free gift of God's grace that covers all our sin, gives true freedom. It is by the gift of Christ's righteousness that we learn to commend our fellow sinners to God, not holding their sins against them but sincerely forgiving them and gladly doing good to them, especially when they sin against us (Fifth Petition). It is by the gift of Christ's righteousness that we are delivered from every evil (Sixth Petition). This is why faith continues to pray that God would preserve us in His forgiveness against all evil. Satan's desire is to tempt us away from the free gift of the righteousness of Christ. When our faith moves away from Christ's righteousness then false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice come into our hearts and lives. So the faith that receives Christ's righteousness is always calling upon Him in prayer to preserve us in the freedom of His righteousness.

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

1 Timothy 4:4,5

G Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



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.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	24
Evening	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.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Fifth & Sixth Petitions

<p>L What is the Fifth Petition?</p> <p>C Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.</p> <p>So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>L What is the Sixth Petition?</p> <p>C Lead us not into temptation.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C God surely tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or lead us into false believe, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and though we are tempted by them, we pray that we may overcome and win the victory.</p>	Third Grade +
<p>Prayer on the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:</p> <p><i>Father in heaven, do not look upon our sins or deny our prayers on account of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserve them, but we ask that you would give them to us by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment. So we, too, will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us. In your mercy, hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.</i></p> <p>Prayer on the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:</p> <p><i>God, you tempt no one to sin, so we pray that you would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that, trusting in you alone, we may finally overcome them and win the victory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	

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.

	Weekly Scripture Readings*		Through the Confessions in One Year
	Old Testament	New Testament	
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20	Apology of the Augsburg Confession [Apol.] Greeting–I:2
Tuesday	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40	Apol. II:1-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 63:15–65:7	Luke 2:41-52	Apol. II:15-41
Thursday	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20	Apol. II:42–III:52
Friday	<i>Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord:</i> Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20		Apol. IV:1-21
Saturday	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28	Romans 1:1-17	-----
Sunday	Ezekiel 2:1–3:11	Romans 1:18-32	-----

PRAYERS

Collect for 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.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: 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 our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: 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.

Friday: 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.

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 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.

In Our Prayers this Week

Jackie Adelung and her Family, as they celebrated the promise of eternal life and committed the earthly body to the ground at her mother's funeral this past week.

Bert Mues, whose mother died in the Lord this past week.

Phyllis Butterfield, and all the residents of Mt. Carmel Home, as the home was quarantined this past week for severe illness, that the Lord bring healing and relief swiftly.

Eleanor Pieschke, as the anniversary of the death of her husband, Richard, happens this week.

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

Eleanor Pieschke, as she celebrates her birthday this week.

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

Aaron Scott & Amanda Arnold, as they were joined in marriage this past Saturday.

All those who travel for the holidays, that they be kept safe and that their visits were enjoyable and their homecomings welcoming.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (❖), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

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

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (❖), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

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.

² 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.'"

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How Lovely Shines the Morning Star



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 - ning
 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 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 - ces, 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 me 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.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.