

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Second Sunday after Christmas*

January 3<sup>rd</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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 selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **The Ten Commandments**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

### **The Catechism – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition**

#### **Thy kingdom come.**

*What does this mean?*

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

*How does God's kingdom come?*

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

**Large Catechism:** “The coming of God’s kingdom to us” takes place in two ways: first, it comes here, in time, through the Word and faith, and second, in eternity, it comes through the final revelation. Now, we ask for both of these things: that it may come to those who are not yet in it and that, by daily growth here and in eternal life hereafter, it may come to us who have attained it. All this is nothing more than to say: “Dear Father, we ask you first to give us your Word, so that the gospel may be properly preached throughout the world and then that it may also be received in faith and may work and dwell in us, so that your kingdom may pervade among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit and the devil’s kingdom may be destroyed so that he may have no right or power over us until finally his kingdom is utterly eradicated and sin, death, and hell wiped out,

that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness.” – *Large Catechism*

**Memory Verse** – He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13-14).

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Flight into Egypt Matthew 2:13-23		Psalm 134
Monday	Circumcision, Purification of Mary & Presentation Luke 2:21-24	Leviticus 12:1-8	Psalm 135
Tuesday	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ Child Luke 2:25-30	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 136
Wednesday	The Epiphany of Our Lord Matthew 2:1-12	Numbers 24:15-19	Psalm 137
Thursday	The Flight into Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents Matthew 2:13-23	Jeremiah 31:10-17	Psalm 138
Friday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:41-52	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	Psalm 139
Saturday	I Have Put My Spirit Upon Him Isaiah 42:1-7	1 Cor. 1:26-31	Psalm 140

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

**Our Church:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Prayers for Healing:** Earl Nolte (brother of Deb Albers), Arianna Nolte (Nick Nolte’s daughter), Sharon Hanke. **Those Recovering from Illness and Surgery:** Rhonda Morgan (Karen Yardley’s mother), Sam Tepe (Angie Siddell’s brother), Barb Mueller. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (son-in-law of Roger & Joan Knolhoff, ongoing cancer treatments). **Homebound Members:** Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal**

**Birthdays:** 6<sup>th</sup> Scott Telford, 7<sup>th</sup> Brent Hanke. **For Area Schools:** That faculty and students may delight in teaching and learning, and that they may be kept safe from the pandemic. **For Government Officials:** Donald Trump (President), JB Pritzker (Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and strife.

Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)**

**Hymn of the Week:** From East to West (LSB 385)