

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Fourth week of Advent*

December 20<sup>th</sup> through December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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 – Intro to the Lord's Prayer**

#### **Our Father who art in heaven.**

*What does this mean?*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

**Large Catechism:** We have now heard what we are to do and believe (The Ten Commandments and the Creed). The best and most blessed life consists of these things. Now follows the third part, how we are to pray. We are in such a situation that no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, even though he or she has begun to believe. Besides, the devil, along with the world and our flesh, resists them with all his power. Consequently, nothing is so necessary as to call upon God incessantly and to drum into his ears our prayer that he may give, preserve, and increase in us faith and the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments and remove all that stands in our way and hinders us in this regard. That we may know what and how to pray, however, our LORD Christ himself has taught us both the way and the words, as we shall see. – *Large Catechism*

**Memory Verse** – Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7–8)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	John Prepares for the Redeemer John 1:19-28		Psalm 120
Monday	St. Thomas, Apostle John 20:24-29	Ephesians 4:7, 11-16	Psalm 121
Tuesday	The Annunciation Luke 1: 26-38	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 122
Wednesday	The Birth of Christ Foretold to Joseph Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 123
Thursday	Christmas Eve: The Nativity of Our Lord Luke 2:1-20	Titus 2:11-14	Psalm 124
Friday	Christmas Day: the Word Became Flesh John 1:1-18	Titus 3:4-7	Psalm 125
Saturday	St. Stephen, Martyr Acts 6:8-7a, 51-60	Matthew 23:34-39	Psalm 126

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. **In Thanksgiving for Successful Surgery and Continued Recovery:** 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:** 20<sup>th</sup> Glen Edwards, Randy Tate, Calvin Yardley, 22<sup>nd</sup> Alan Edwards, 23<sup>rd</sup> Brad Nolte, 24<sup>th</sup> Stefanie Jennings, 25<sup>th</sup> Jason Edwards. **Anniversaries:** 26<sup>th</sup> Earl & Marilyn Schneider. **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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)**