

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the First Sunday after Christmas

December 27th through January 2nd, 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 – 1st Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Large Catechism: What is it to pray that his name may become holy? Is it not already holy? Answer: Yes, in its essence it is always holy, but our use of it is not holy. God's name was given to us when we became Christians and were baptized, and so we are called children of God and have the sacraments, through which he incorporates us into himself with the result that everything that is God's must serve for our use. Thus it is a matter of grave necessity, about which we should be most concerned that God's name receive due honor and be kept holy and sacred as the greatest treasure and most sacred thing that we have, and that, as good children, we pray that his name, which is in any case holy in heaven, may also be holy and be kept holy on earth in our midst and in all the world. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31–32)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Presentation Luke 2:22-40		Psalm 127
Monday	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Matthew 2:13-18	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Psalm 128
Tuesday	The Purification of Mary Luke 2:22-24	Isaiah 49:1-13	Psalm 129
Wednesday	Simeon Receives the Christ Child Luke 2:25-32	Isaiah 55:1-13	Psalm 130
Thursday	New Year’s Eve Luke 12:35-40	Romans 8:31b-39	Psalm 131
Friday	Circumcision and Name of Jesus Luke 2:21	Galatians 3:23-29	Psalm 132
Saturday	Jacob Is Sent to Egypt Genesis 46:1-7	1 Peter 4:12-19	Psalm 133

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:** 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:** 27th Deb Albers, 29th Carl Hanke, Landon Langenhorst, 30th Lucille Stein, 31st Michelle VanDorn, 1st Lily

Jennings. **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: Let All Together Praise Our God (LSB 389)