

The Congregation at Prayer

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

January 3rd through January 9th, 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 – 3rd Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Large Catechism: Although we have prayed for what is most necessary—for the gospel, for faith, and for the Holy Spirit, that he may govern us who have been redeemed from the power of the devil—we must also pray that God cause his will to be done. If we try to hold these treasures fast, we will have to suffer an astonishing number of attacks and assaults from all who venture to hinder and thwart the fulfillment of the first two petitions. For our flesh is in itself vile and inclined to evil, even when we have accepted God's Word and believe it. The world, too, is perverse and wicked. Here the devil stirs things up, feeding and fanning the flames, in order to impede us, put us to flight, cut us down, and bring us once again under his power. Therefore, there is just as much need here as in every other case to ask without ceasing: "Dear Father, your will be done and not

the will of the devil or of our enemies, nor of those who would persecute and suppress your holy Word or prevent your kingdom from coming; and grant that we may bear patiently and overcome whatever we must suffer on its account, so that our poor flesh may not yield or fall away through weakness or sloth.” – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3–4)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord Matthew 3:13-17		Psalm 141
Monday	The Baptism of Our Lord Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 142
Tuesday	Behold the Lamb of God John 1:19-34	Leviticus 16:21-24	Psalm 143
Wednesday	Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night John 3:1-16	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 144
Thursday	The Woman at the Well John 4:1-30, 39-42	Jeremiah 2:9-13	Psalm 145
Friday	The Pool of Bethesda John 5:1-15	Isaiah 35:3-10	Psalm 146
Saturday	The Lord Shows Moses His Glory Exodus 33:12-23	Ephesians 5:22-33	Psalm 147

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:** 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. **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: Of the Father's Love Begotten (LSB 384)