

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the 2nd Sunday in Advent

(Dec. 5th – Dec. 11th)

CATECHETICAL THEME:

God the Father – Creator

This Week's Catechetical Theme: God the Father – Creator

We began our study of the Apostles' Creed last week by considering the wonderful truth that God is "Triune" (three-in-one). This week, we consider God's great work of creation, which we confess: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." The biblical teaching of creation places us at the beginning of all history. As the Scriptures reveal it, humanity is formed in the image of God, who instituted marriage, and who gave the gift of life for our future. But He did not only create humanity. He created all that exists, in heaven and on earth. He established what is seen and unseen. This is not only the clear teaching of the Scriptures. It is the faithful confession of the Church that confesses the one true faith. God bless your time in God's Word!

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

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: God the Father – Creator

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Coming of the Son of man Luke 21:25-36		Psalm 99
Monday	Creation Genesis 1:1-2:3	Daniel 9:20-27	Psalm 100
Tuesday	Creation of Man & Woman Genesis 2:4-25	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Psalm 101
Wednesday	The Work of Your Fingers Psalm 8	Mt. 24:4-14, 36-44	Psalm 102
Thursday	Where were you? Job 38	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 103
Friday	I The Father of our Lord Jesus Ephesians 3:14-15	Leviticus 26:40-45	Psalm 104
Saturday	Isaiah 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Psalm 105

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon- Fri:** For each day's reading discuss the following questions: 1) What work does the reading reveal God performing? 2) What is the benefit of this work? 3) For whom is the work performed? 4) How does this reading relate to the First Article of the Creed? 5) What false ideas does this passage confront? 6) What important truths does this passage help us to retain, to believe, and to teach? 7) What does the passage teach regarding the character of God? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Psalm 33:6)

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia, Trinity Lutheran Church-Hoffman. **For Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends of Andrew Liefer (Son of Bernadine Liefer). **For Those Recovering from Surgery/Medical Procedures:** Eden VanDorn, Barb Mueller, Jerry Mines, Mike Jones, Pat Borgelt (Angie Nolte's father). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Elbert Brink, Eddie Hermsmeyer, Glenn Knolhoff. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Bob Freund, Same Tepe (Angie Siddell's brother), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** James Kuper (12/2), Michael Lange (12/5), Sandy Haun (12/6), Roy Defend (12/7), Ethan Hanke (12/8). **Anniversaries:** Paul & Angie Langenhorst (12/1), Roger & Mia Zimmermann (12/4), Jerry & Kathryn Mines (12/5).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide (LSB 355)