

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Fourth Sunday in Advent
(Dec. 19th – Dec. 25th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

God the Father – Preserver

This Week’s Catechetical Theme: God the Father – Preserver

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, which means that we believe that God created us. This is what we studied last week. But our loving heavenly Father is not the sort of God who abandons His own creation—even if His creation is now tainted with sin. On the contrary, God the Father Almighty not only creates us, but He also preserves us. As we confess in the meaning of the First Article, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures...and still takes care of them.” We also teach that “He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.” This preservation is the work which our heavenly Father does for us out of His “fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in (us).” This is the topic for this week’s devotional material. God bless you time in His 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: 1st Article of the Creed

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	Make Straight the Way of the Lord John 1: 19-28		Psalm 113
Monday	God takes care of Noah Genesis 9:1-3	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 114
Tuesday	God takes care of Israel Deuteronomy 8:3-4	Eph. 4:7, 11-16	Psalm 115
Wednesday	Do not be anxious Luke 12:22-34	2 Thess. 1:3-12	Psalm 116
Thursday	God protected Joseph from evil Genesis 50:15-21	1 John 4:7-16	Psalm 117
Friday	The eyes of all look to You, O Lord Psalm 145: 15-16	Titus 2:11-14	Psalm 118
Saturday	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Titus 3:4-7	Psalm 119

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 this passage attribute to God? 2) For whom is God doing this work? 3) Is the work something that is deserved? 4) What does this teach us about the character of God? 5) How does this passage help us understand the fatherly nature and Person of the Holy Trinity? 6) How does this passage serve to bring Good News? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16)

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 & friends of Michael Sasser (brother of Kathy Brink). **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:** Rick Tate (brother of Randy Tate), Bob Freund, Sam 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:** Parklynn Hanke (12/19), Glen Edwards, Randy Tate, Calvin Yardley (12/20), Alan Edwards (12/22), Bradley Nolte (12/23), Stefanie Jennings (12/24), Jason Edwards, Corinne Bradley (12/25).

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

Hymn of the Week: