

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Fourth Sunday in Advent
(Dec. 26th – Jan. 1st)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

God the Son – God in the Flesh

This Week's Catechetical Theme: God the Son – God in the Flesh

Wrapped up in the flesh and blood of that baby boy born in Bethlehem is the fullness of God. True God had taken on flesh and was now dwelling among us, as one of us. No bit of his divinity was left behind or forfeited even as He was wrapped in his swaddling clothes, suckled at the breast of Mary, or needed to have his diaper changed. As He grew up He would also grow in wisdom and stature, became hungry, sad, angry, and every other mood which is common to our human experience. For not only was He true God; he was also true man. In Jesus we see two natures—divine and human—united in one person. The Two Natures of Christ will be the subject of this week's devotional material. God bless your 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: 2nd Article of the Creed

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Presented at the Temple Luke 2:22-40		Psalm 120
Monday	The Fullness of God Colossians 1:19-20; 2:8-10	1 John 1:1-2:2	Psalm 121
Tuesday	God Sent Forth His Son Galatians 4:4-5	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Psalm 122
Wednesday	The Word Became Flesh John 1: 1-14	1 Peter 4:12-19	Psalm 123
Thursday	Being Born in the Likeness of Men Philippians 2:5-9	Romans 12:1-5	Psalm 124
Friday	In the Days of His Flesh Hebrews 5:5-8	Romans 8:31b-39	Psalm 125
Saturday	Genesis 46:1-7	1 Peter 4:12-19	Psalm 126

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon- Fri:** For each day's reading, answer the following questions: How does the reading reveal the humanity of Jesus? How does the reading reveal the divinity of Jesus? What aspects of the divine and/or human nature is revealed in the reading? Why are these important aspects for Jesus to possess? What in this passage is Good News? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

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 Robin Brink (family relative of the Brink's). **For Those Recovering from Surgery/Medical Procedures:** Eden VanDorn, Barb Mueller, Jerry Mines, Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Elbert Brink, Eddie Hermsmeyer, Glenn Knolhoff. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Duane Hoffmann (father of Steve Hoffmann), Rick Tate (brother of Randy Tate), Bob Fruend, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Debra Albers (12/27), Carl Hanke, Landon Langenhorst (12/29), Lucille Stein (12/30), Michelle VanDorn (12/31), Lilian Jennings (1/1). **Anniversaries:** Earl & Marilyn Schneider (12/26).

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

Hymn of the Week: Let All Together Praise Our God (LSB 389)