

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Fourth Sunday in Advent
(Jan. 2nd – Jan. 8th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

God the Son – True God

This Week's Catechetical Theme: God the Son – True God

In the words of the Apostles' Creed we confess, "[I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." With these words we state the profound. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man, wrapped up in one person. The truth that He is fully man may be fairly obvious. He has a body. He is born of a woman. He grows up and matures. He becomes hungry, angry, sad, and is also filled with joy! He even dies. Clearly Jesus is a man. But how do we know for certain that Jesus is also fully God? The answer to this question is the theme of this week's devotional material. For the clear teaching of Scripture is that Jesus Christ is true God, and in Him, the fullness of the deity dwells. 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: 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	The Flight to Egypt Matthew 2:13-23		Psalm 127
Monday	Jesus Forgives Matthew 9:1-8	Leviticus 12:1-8	Psalm 128
Tuesday	Jesus Creates John 1:1-3 & Colossians 1:15-20	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 129
Wednesday	Jesus Turns Water into Wine John 2:1-12	Numbers 24:15-19	Psalm 130
Thursday	Jesus Will Judge John 5:25-29 & Matthew 25:31-46	1 Peter 4:12-19	Psalm 131
Friday	Jesus Reigns Ephesians 1:15-23 & Hebrews 1:1-4	Jeremiah 31:10-17	Psalm 132
Saturday	1 Kings 8:6-13	Romans 12:41-52	Psalm 133

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 divinity of Jesus? What divine work does Jesus do in the reading? What aspects of the divine and/or human nature are revealed in the reading? Why are these important aspects for Jesus for us to see and acknowledge? What in this passage is Good News? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col. 1:19-20)

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:** Scott Telford (1/6), Brent Hanke (1/7).

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

Hymn of the Week: From East to West (LSB 385)