

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Second Sunday in Advent  
(December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***What Sins Should We Confess?***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: What Sins Should We Confess?**

When a Christian confesses his sins, that person is simply being faithful. The Christian is agreeing with the Law of God spoken against his own thoughts, words, actions or desires. If he were to deny these sins, he would be denying the truth, as Holy Scripture plainly teaches: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). The life of a Christian is a life of confession.

That a Christian confesses he is a sinner is not new to most of us. We begin each and every Divine Service with a public confession of sins, after all. But what might be new to us, or might challenge us, is to confess which sins we have committed. Did you sin against the 1st Commandment, the 2nd Commandment, or some other Commandment? Was your sin committed against your spouse, your child, a parent, friend, colleague, or some other neighbor? Confessing that you're a sinner is one thing, but to know what sins you have to confess requires that we examine our lives in comparison to the Law of God—and in this way the Law of God serves as a mirror. This week's catechetical material will instruct us accordingly. God bless your devotion!

**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:**

*What is confession?*

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

*What sins should we confess?*

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

<b>Daily Readings</b>	<b>Catechetical Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Coming of the Son of Man Luke 21:25-36</b>	<b>Luke 4</b>	<b>Psalm 134</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Whoever Confesses and Forsakes Proverbs 28:13</b>	<b>Luke 5</b>	<b>Psalm 135</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>God Is Light 1 John 1:5-9</b>	<b>Luke 6</b>	<b>Psalm 136</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Nathan Absolves David 2 Samuel 11:1–12:15</b>	<b>Luke 7</b>	<b>Psalm 137</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>First Be Reconciled Matthew 5:23-24</b>	<b>Luke 8</b>	<b>Psalm 138</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>If He Has Committed Sins... James 5:13-16</b>	<b>Luke 9</b>	<b>Psalm 139</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:1-11/1 Corinthians 4:1-5</b>	<b>Luke 10</b>	<b>Psalm 140</b>

### **Questions to Discuss in the Home**

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does this passage teach us to do with our sins? What will then be received? **Tues:** What does this passage teach us to do with our sins? What does God promise to give? **Wed:** Which commandments had David sinned against? How did he become aware of his sin? Did he deny his sin? What did he receive when he confessed his sin? **Thurs:** What does this passage teach us to do when we have sinned against another person? **Fri:** What does this passage teach you to give to a person who confesses his or her sin to you? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### **Memory Verse**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**For Those Who Mourn:** The family & friends of Marlene Schierschwitz. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Marla Corry, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Alan Kleiboeker, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Roger

& Marilyn Sullens (father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Michael Lange (12/5), Sandy Haun (12/6), Roy Defend (12/7), Ethan Hanke (12/8). **Anniversaries:** 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)