

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of Advent 1

November 27-December 3, 2016

Catechesis Notes for the week: *The second article teaches us that the second Person of the Trinity is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He is one with the Father and one with us. He is begotten from the Father from eternity and born from the Virgin in time, so He has a divine nature and a human nature. Everything that He did from His conception forward, He did and continues to do as true God and as true man. After His conception His divine nature and human nature can never be separated; never do they act independently of each other for He is One Person even today in glory. So we are certain of our salvation because the Son of God took our sins, guilt, punishment and died our death and today gives us His life. The second article shows us that we need to be saved. We were helplessly lost without Jesus. We needed God to die for us, so great were our sins, so great was His love. Nothing but the death of the Son of God in human flesh could save us. Yet by brushing off our sins as unimportant, we have despised the death of Christ. We have viewed Christmas with indifference almost as our right instead of marveling at the love of our God who descended to live with us. It calls us to repentance and faith in Jesus, God's Son, Mary's Son, who saved us by His blood and even today remains our brother and our God so we can be certain of our salvation in Him.*

Theme: Christ is Coming!

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<p><i>What is the second article?</i> I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.</p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> 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,</p>	1st Grade+
<p>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.</p>	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	2 Sam 7:1-17	188
Tuesday	Lk 1:26-38	269
Wednesday	Mt 1:18-25	279
Thursday	Lk 2:1-20	283
Friday	Mt 21:1-9	389
Saturday	Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36	258

PRAYER

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechesis notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

Example:

Repeat the 2nd Article

A teaching: Dear Father, in the first article You teach me that Jesus is true God and true man born from the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has done all things and continues to do all things as both God and man so that He is my Savior.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for sending Your Son to take on my flesh as His own. He is my eternal Brother and God giving me His blessings through that same crucified and risen flesh.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have viewed Christmas with nostalgia instead of a holy mystery, and a past event instead of a present reality. My reason has left the body of Christ in heaven while His divinity remains everywhere.

A prayer: I ask You for help in pondering this holy mystery of the incarnation. Deepen my faith and joy in the Person of Jesus. And lead me to crave His divine flesh and blood in the Holy Supper my salvation. Amen.

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Prayer for Advent 1

Stir up, we beseech You, Your power, O Lord and come: that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever.

Luther's Morning/Evening Prayer

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This document is adapted from Lutheran Catechesis: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation by Peter Bender, © 2011.