

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of Epiphany 3

January 22-28, 2017

Catechetical Notes for the week: *The seventh petition teaches us to trust in God in times of trouble. We go through many hardships. They burden our body, mind, soul, and heart. God never leaves us, but He gently guides us, watches us, protects us in His way and time. Finally, He rescues us by bringing us out of this world and to heaven. So the answer to our various hardships is God's forgiveness won on the cross and given in Word and Sacraments. Every hardship will soon pass like a fleeting shadow. The seventh petition shows us that we have failed to trust in God to deliver. We've doubted His protection, questioned His love, and complained as we struggle. We've acted as if He were unfair to us and have forgotten His abiding love in Christ. We've wanted rescuing in our way and time rather than by His forgiveness. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who has delivered us by Christ's cross and given it to us through Word and Sacraments. The conclusion teaches us that God always hears our prayers. He is our loving Father. He tenderly listens to every word we utter. He's ready to help. He's willing to help. He will do what is best for us. "Yes, yes, it shall be so." God's will will be done. It's the voice of confidence. God has heard. He will answer. The conclusion shows us that we have doubted God's eagerness to hear our prayer. We have thought our prayers, problems, and life are too impossible or too insignificant and God has more important things to worry about. So we have neglected our prayers or prayed halfheartedly. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who desires to give us far more than we can possibly ask or imagine through His beloved Son.*

Theme: Christ heals the nations

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

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

<i>What is the 7th petition?</i> But deliver us from evil.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and person, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.	2nd Grade+
<i>What is the conclusion?</i> For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."	3rd grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Judges 6:1-32	148
Tuesday	Judges 15:1-20	153
Wednesday	Judges 16:23-31	155
Thursday	Genesis 18:1-15	54
Friday	1 Samuel 2:27-36	167
Saturday	2 Kings 2:1-18	224

PRAYER

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

Example:

Repeat the seventh petition and conclusion

A teaching: Dear Father, in the seventh petition You teach me that You will deliver me from all evil by Christ's cross and given it to me in Word and Sacraments. I will see this when You bring me to heaven.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for delivering me from Satan, sin, and every difficulty by Christ in Word and Sacraments.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have doubted Your deliverance, been impatient, and have desired something besides Your deliverance in Christ.

A prayer: I ask You to rescue me through Your Son, my Savior. Do not take Him from me.

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 Epiphany 3

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities; and in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth Your right hand to help and defend us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; 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.