

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of Advent 1

December 2-8, 2018

Catechetical Notes for the week: *The first article teaches us that the first Person of the Trinity is the Father. Fathers give so all things earthly and eternal come from the Father. He is the Creator and also our Provider. He provides physical nourishment with food; physical protection by government, policemen, military, angels and by keeping many unknown dangers away from us; and spiritual protection against the devil and temptation by His angels and His Word and Sacraments. We are blissfully unaware of all He protects us from and were it not for His loving providence, we would have nothing good in body or soul. The first article shows us that we have trusted in ourselves to earn a living, acquire goods, protect our bodies or families. We have looked to what we can see—medicine, government, food—instead of the One working through those things to care for us. We have felt deserving of these gifts. We have and even complain that we're entitled to more. We have not been thankful in all things, but have grumbled or complained when food, clothing, or governments are not to our liking. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who provides His Son for us in the Word and Sacraments to protect and sustain our soul and body until He gives to us eternal and lasting blessings.*

Theme: Christ is coming.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

<i>What is the first article?</i> I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.	1st Grade+
He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Genesis 41:1-40	89
Tuesday	Joshua 6	140
Wednesday	Esther 5:9-14; 6:10-14; 7:1-10	253-257
Thursday	Genesis 24:1-27; 61-67	64
Friday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	176
Saturday	Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36	(Mk 12:41-44) 386

PRAYER

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

Example:

Repeat the 1st Article

A teaching: Dear Father, in the first article You teach me that You have created all things and still take care of and provide for me through the means You've established, giving me all good things even when I don't see it.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for taking care of me, giving me many good things in this world and seeing me through the difficulties. You have allowed all things into my life for my good.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have complained with what You've given, wasted Your gifts, and trusted in myself for a good life rather than You.

A prayer: I ask You for help in viewing You as the Provider and Sustainer of all things. Lead me to always thank You for what I have and trust that You know what is best even if I cannot see it at the moment. 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 and 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.