

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of Advent 3

December 16-22, 2018

Catechetical 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 was born to be our Substitute and so our Sacrifice, to pay for our sins, appease the wrath of God, and so die our death on the cross. Only Jesus could do all this. He had to be true man to have blood; He had to be true God to give that blood infinite value or else we could not be saved. His resurrection confirmed His all-atoning death and showed Him to be the Son of God. Even now ascended in heaven He rules all things as our Brother so we may be certain we will follow Him to heaven with our bodies. The second article shows us that we need to be saved. We need God to die for us, so great were our sins, so great was His love. Yet we have despised the work of Christ by taking it for granted and have wanted to hear about something different. We have failed to see how His death and resurrection is God's solution to all problems in our life. We have looked past His death and resurrection wanting something more. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who died and rose to save us and now rules all things for our eternal good.

Theme: The Lord is near; rejoice!

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

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<p><i>What is the second article?</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>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.</p> <p>This is most certainly true.</p>	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Matthew 27:15-26	398
Tuesday	Luke 23:33-49	402
Wednesday	John 20:1-18	407
Thursday	John 20:19-31	412
Friday	Act 1:1-11	418
Saturday	Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28	(Lk 24) 409

PRAYER

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

Example:

Repeat the 2nd Article

A teaching: Dear Father, in the Second Article You teach me that Jesus is true God and true man born from the Blessed Virgin Mary. He alone has won my salvation by His bitter sufferings and death.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for sending Your Son to take on my flesh as His own. Without Him I would be separated from You for all eternity; but through Him you have made me Your beloved son.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have taken for granted that marvelous death and resurrection. I have wanted to hear sermons about myself rather than Your boundless love.

A prayer: I ask You for help in meditating on His death and resurrection. Lead me to always treasure that cross as the source of my salvation. Continually give me the blessings of that cross so that through it and it alone I might have 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 3

Lord, we beseech You: give ear to our prayers; and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation, 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.