

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The First week of Epiphany*

*January 8-14, 2023*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** The fifth petition teaches us to ask God to forgive us. We need forgiveness for our lack of forgiving. He forgives by grace. He listens to our prayers by grace. He blesses us by grace. We have nothing because of ourselves. His forgiveness envelops us flowing into our hearts and then out to those around us. We forgive because He forgives us constantly. The fifth petition shows us that we've failed to ask God for forgiveness. We've taken it for granted and not treasured it. We have withheld forgiveness from others. We've been vengeful, begrudging, spiteful, unwilling to reconcile. And often when we do forgive, we fail to forget. If God were to forgive us as we forgive, we would never receive His forgiveness. It calls to repentance and faith in the God who forgives and forgets for Jesus' sake.

The sixth petition teaches us to ask God to watch us, protect us, guard us, and defend us against all the devil's lies and tricks. God tempts no one, but He desires that we overcome temptation. How? By Christ. He overcame for us. He now lives in us so we overcome. We ask God that His holy angels continue to surround us; that His gracious hand may always hold us close to Him. On our own we fall; in Him we have the victory. The sixth petition shows us that we have fallen even as Adam fell. We've broken each of His commands. We've doubted His protection, questioned His love, and trusted in ourselves to see and fight off the devil. We've thought we're strong enough. It leads us to repentance and faith in Christ who suffered temptation for us, never fell, gives us His victory, and continues to overcome Satan for us by His Word and Holy Supper.

**Theme: Christ does the work of the Father.**

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**HYMN:** Of the Father's Love Begotten

**BIBLE VERSE:** Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

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| <i>What is the 5th petition?</i><br>And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Preschool+ |
| <i>What does this mean?</i><br>We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us. | 1st Grade+ |
| <i>What is the 6th petition?</i><br>And lead us not into temptation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Preschool+ |

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| <p><i>What does this mean?</i></p> <p>God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.</p> | 2nd Grade+ |
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| DAILY READING |                                              | <i>The Story Bible page</i> |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday        | Luke 15:11-32                                | 374                         |
| Tuesday       | Genesis 50:15-21                             | 91                          |
| Wednesday     | Genesis 33:1-15                              | 78                          |
| Thursday      | Genesis 3:1-21                               | 30                          |
| Friday        | Numbers 21:4-9                               | 127                         |
| Saturday      | Exodus 33:12-23; Romans 12:6-16; John 2:1-11 | (Matt 4 300)                |

## PRAYER

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

### **Example:**

*Repeat the fifth and sixth Petition*

*A teaching: Dear Father, in the fifth petition You teach me that to forgive even as You have forgiven me and to live in peace with all people free from grudges.*

*A thanksgiving: I thank You for daily forgiving me and blotting out all my sins through Your Beloved Son even though I daily fall and pile up sins against You.*

*A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have harbored grudges, refused to forgive, and have forgiven with strings attached.*

*A prayer: I ask You to forgive me for my lack of forgiving and to give me a forgiving spirit that emulates Your boundless, loving forgiveness.*

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 1

O Lord, we beseech You mercifully to receive the prayers of Your people who call on You: and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do; and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill them, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; 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, though 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.