

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The Week of the Epiphany of Our Lord*

*January 7-13, 2024*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** *The fourth petition teaches us to ask God for everything we need. He alone gives; and He gives even when we fail to ask. Yet as His dear children, we recognize His hand in all things, ask Him for His blessings, and then thank Him for such blessings. As His dear children, we also recognize our greatest need is the Bread of Life, through whom we are given lasting blessings. We need Christ daily for without Him all other blessings are meaningless. But with Him God's will is done among us as His kingdom comes into our hearts and we hallow His name and thus, call Him Father. The fourth petition shows us that we have failed to ask God for our every day needs. We have prayed only when we wanted something big and have neglected to pray for a good government, faithful friends, money, etc. We have overlooked God's gracious hand and have patted ourselves on the back for what we do get. We have been content to have only earthly blessings and failed to see our daily need to receive Christ. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who desires to give us good things both now and eternally.*

**Theme: Jesus is for All Nations.**

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

**HYMN:** How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

**BIBLE VERSE:** 1 Timothy 6:8-10 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

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| <i>What is the 4th petition?</i><br>Give us this day our daily bread.   | Preschool+ |
| <i>What does this mean?</i><br>God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.  | 1st Grade+ |
| <i>What is meant by daily bread?</i><br>Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. | 2nd Grade+ |

## DAILY READING

*The Story Bible page*

Monday

Genesis 2:4-25

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| Tuesday   | John 6:1-15                                   | 358   |
| Wednesday | Genesis 32:9-12; 22-32                        | 78    |
| Thursday  | Luke 22:7-23                                  | 392   |
| Friday    | Ezra 3:7-15                                   | 249   |
| Saturday  | Isaiah 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 | (345) |

## PRAYER

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

### **Example:**

*Repeat the Fourth Petition*

*A teaching: Dear Father, in the fourth petition You teach me that you provide for all my needs, both body and soul.*

*A thanksgiving: I thank You for daily giving me all that I need for my body and for daily giving me Christ the Bread of Life who will sustains me forever.*

*A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have looked to my own work instead of your gracious providing. I have desired earthly things first and the Bread of Life second. I have not been thankful in all that you have given.*

*A prayer: I ask You to forgive me and give me the Bread of Life to order my thoughts aright.*

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 the Epiphany of Our Lord

O God, who by the leading of a star made known to all nations Your only-begotten Son: mercifully grant, that we who know You know by faith; may after this life know the fullness of Your glorious Godhead, 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, 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.