For your life in Christ the Week of the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist December 28, 2020–January 3, 2021

How to use this resource: Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able or as your family size and ages dictate. You will need your Bible, a Catechism, and an LSB Hymnal. Other resources named within may enrich your meditation.

Begin
Invocation
The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of the Week
LSB #382 “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth” (v. 1–4)

Recite
Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Verse of the Week: Colossians 2:9
“For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”
**Meditate**
**Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule**

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<tbody>
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<td>Morning</td>
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<td>42, 43</td>
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<td>52, 53</td>
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<td>57, 58</td>
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**Daily Bible Stories**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Week 17: Post-Christmas Stories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>The Epiphany of Our Lord - Matthew 2:1–12</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>The Flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:13–15</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents - Matthew 2:16–23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings (see last page)</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Attend Divine Service</td>
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**Daily Lectionary Readings**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 28</td>
<td>Is 52:13–54:10, Matt 2:13–23</td>
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Study

The Catechism

Participants may choose to study the catechism at their own pace or follow along with the selected portion of the catechism for the week.

Review 1st Article of the Creed

See p. 8 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Pray

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

Collect for the Week:

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace. Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins. Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods. Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood. Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying. Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts. Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
Close
Blessing
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
Amen.

Observing the Church Year

Liturgical Color(s) of the Week: White; Red
White - The color of the pure glory of Christ and the angels. Jesus comes at the fullness of time as the complete fulfillment of God’s promises. Jesus’ resurrection is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before the Father becomes our purity.
Red - The color of fire and blood. Red symbolizes the gift of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs.

Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations This Week
NOTE: The following resources contain great summaries of the observances of the church year
1. TDP—“Treasury of Daily Prayer”
2. CS—“Celebrating the Saints”

December 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs (R) (TDP p. 1065; CS p. 240)
December 29 – David (W) (TDP p. 1068; CS p. 242)
January 1 – Circumcision and Name of Jesus (W) (TDP p. 1078; CS p. 10)
January 2 – J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, Pastor (W) (TDP p. 1081; CS p. 12)

Looking Forward to Sunday
Second Sunday after Christmas
Readings: Genesis 46:1–7; 1 Peter 4:12–19; Matthew 2:13–23

Jesus Is the Perfect Israel
Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13–23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.