



**For your life in Christ the Week of  
the Nativity of Our Lord  
(Christmas Day)**

December 26, 2022-January 1, 2023

*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 #360 “All My Heart Again Rejoices” (vv. 1-2)

***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: Psalm 2:7-8***

“I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, ‘Your are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.’” (ESV)

*The Family Altar*

**A Guide for Daily Meditation and  
Prayer in the Christian Home**

## *Meditate*

### *Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Sun.</i>
<b>Morning</b>	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128	130	132	134
<b>Evening</b>	119:153-176	124	127	129	131	133	135

### *Daily Bible Stories*

<i>Day</i>	<b>Week 17: Post-Christmas Stories</b>
<b>Monday</b>	The Epiphany of Our Lord - Matthew 2:1-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:13-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents - Matthew 2:16-23
<b>Thursday</b>	The Boy Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:41-52
<b>Friday</b>	John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord - Matthew 3:1-12
<b>Saturday</b>	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
<b>Sunday</b>	Attend Divine Service

### *Daily Lectionary Readings*

<b>December 26</b>	Is 49:22-26;50:4-51:8, 12-16, Matt 1:18-25
<b>December 27</b>	Is 51:17-52:12, Matt 2:1-12
<b>December 28</b>	Is 52:13-54:10, Matt 2:13-23
<b>December 29</b>	Is 55:1-13, Luke 1:1-25
<b>December 30</b>	Is 58:1-59:3, 14-21, Luke 1:26-38
<b>December 31</b>	Is 60:1-22, Luke 1:39-56
<b>January 1</b>	Is 61:1-11, Luke 1:57-80

## *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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:***

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.**

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## 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 26 - St. Stephen, Martyr (R) (TDP p. 1058; CS p. 236)

December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (W) (TDP p. 1061; CS p. 238)

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)

### **Looking Forward to Sunday**

#### **The Circumcision and Name of Jesus**

**Readings:** Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:21

#### **Jesus Blesses Us with His Name and Saves Us with His Blood**

Our newborn God keeps the Law for us and brings Abraham's promises to their fulfillment when He is circumcised. It is there that the Name above all names is "*bestowed on Him*" (Phil. 2:9), "*the Name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb*"; Jesus, "*the Lord saves*" (Luke 2:21). He sheds the first drops of His precious blood in accordance with this Name and in anticipation of His cross, "*for He will save His people from their sins*" (Matt. 1:21). The law's captivity gives way to the freedom of faith in Christ Jesus, who cuts a new covenant in His blood to be received by faith, whether male or female, Jew or Greek (Gal. 3:23-28). His Name is given to us in Holy Baptism, and we are made sons of God and "*heirs according to promise,*" true offspring of Abraham by faith (Gal. 3:29). Eight days after the celebration of our Lord's birth, a new "Year of our Lord" is begun in Jesus' holy Name and with His benediction. Jesus is the Lord, and by this Name we are blessed (Num. 6:22-27).