



For your life in Christ the Week of the First Sunday after Christmas

January 1-7, 2024

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 #897 “O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly” (v. 1)

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: Galatians 3:13

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.’”

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>
Morning	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112
Evening	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 18: Post-Christmas Stories
Monday	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child - Luke 2:25-40
Tuesday	The Epiphany of Our Lord - Matthew 2:1-12
Wednesday	The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13
Thursday	The Flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:13-15
Friday	The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents - Matthew 2:16-23
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

January 1	Is 61:1-11, Luke 1:57-80
January 2	Is 62:1-12, Luke 2:1-20
January 3	Is 63:1-14, Luke 2:21-40
January 4	Is 63:15-65:2, Luke 2:41-52
January 5	Is 65:8-25, Luke 3:1-20
January 6	Is 66:1-20, Luke 3:21-38
January 7	Ezek 1:1-14, 22-28, Rom 1:1-17 <i>Habakkuk 1:1-3:19</i>

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.

The 2nd Article of the Creed (Part 2 - Redemption)

See p. 9 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Catechism In-Depth

1991 Catechism: Questions #125-140

2017 Catechism: Questions #162-175



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

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.

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"

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)

January 6 - The Epiphany of Our Lord (W) (TDP p. 1094; CS p. 14)

Looking Forward to Sunday

The Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17 or Isaiah 42:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners

Our Lord Jesus is baptized "*to fulfill all righteousness*" (Matt. 3:13-17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in "*Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption*" (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Jesus is the "*chosen*" One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1-7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.