

11 RECITE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM AND MEANING

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

Here God encourages us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are his children. We therefore are to pray to him with complete confidence just as children speak to their loving father.

12 PRAYER BASED ON THE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM

Prayer based on The Introduction to the Lord's Prayer - Heavenly Father, Your words give us boldness and confidence to acknowledge You as our true Father and ourselves as Your true children. May Your Holy Spirit lead us to trust in Your fatherly goodness, call upon Your name in every need, and glorify You as the author and giver of every good and perfect gift; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 241]

13 IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK - INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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| ⇒ For Carol Halderson coping with dementia | ⇒ For Jolene Wieman, David Bjornstad's sister, battling lung cancer. |
| ⇒ For Janet Sisul being cared for | ⇒ For Daniel Simonson, Lisa Cash's father |
| ⇒ For Pastor Dave Steffenson battling cancer | ⇒ For Anne Warner with a hip replacement |
| ⇒ For Sue Reget who suffered a brain aneurism | ⇒ For Ruth Scholze recovering from hip replacement surgery |
| ⇒ For Doris Stanke, Anne Warner's mother, with dementia | |
| ⇒ For Barbara Anderson newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma | |

14 HYMN OF THE WEEK AND UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

Joy to the World LBW 39: *stnz 1* Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King; Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing. *stnz 2* Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. *stnz 3* No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found. *stnz 4* He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

For January 9, The Baptism of Our Lord: **Isaiah 43:1-7** "Fear not, for I have redeemed you."; **Psalm 29** "The voice of the LORD is powerful."; **Romans 6:1-11** We are united with Christ in His death and resurrection in Baptism.; **Luke 3:15-22** John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan.



The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas
January 2 through January 8

1 INVOCATION - MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 CONFESS THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY 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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

Evening. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

5 AT MEAL TIME ASK BLESSING THEN AFTERWARDS RETURN THANKS

Blessing before meal

“The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand, and satisfy the needs of every living creature.” [Ps. 145:15-16]

Lord, God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks after meal

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. He gives food to all creatures. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. He is not impressed by the might of a horse, he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; but the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.” [Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9-11]

We thank you, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

6 PRAY THE PSALMS

Advent/Christmas	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	Friday	Saturday
Morning	48, 150	111, 145	20, 146	99, 147:1-12	72, 147:13-21	51, 148	104, 149
Evening	9, 29	107, 15	93, 97	96, 110	100, 67	142, 65	118, 111

7 RECITE THE VERSE OF THE WEEK: Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Theme of the Week: Jesus’ Humanity

8 READ DAILY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

SUN

1 Kings 3:5-14; Colossians 3:12-17; John 6:41-47

MON

1 Kings 19:9-18; Ephesians 4:17-32; John 6:15-27

TUE

Joshua 3:14--4:7; Ephesians 5:1-20; John 9:1-12, 35-38

WED

Jonah 2:2-9; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 11:17-27, 38-44

THU

Isaiah 49:1-7; Revelation 21:22-27; Matthew 12:14-21

FRI

Deuteronomy 8:1-3; Colossians 1:1-14; John 6:30-33, 48-51

SAT

Exodus 17:1-7; Colossians 1:15-23; John 7:37-52

9 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10 READ INTRODUCTION TO PORTION OF CATECHISM FOR THIS WEEK

The Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father who art in heaven” – The Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32 contains a most comforting image of God! Here God is pictured as welcoming home a wayward son with great joy. The wayward son merely hoped to be welcomed back to his father’s home as an unworthy servant, but the gracious father welcomes a son home whom he regarded as having been dead, but now is alive again. He welcomes the boy home as his beloved son and he throws a feast to celebrate that his lost son has been found again. This parable gives us some idea of the privilege the Almighty has given to us to address him in prayer as “Our Father”! When we go to pray we don’t have to do so as a last resort with the hope that there might be some remote chance that God will hear and answer our prayer. As baptized believers we can approach prayer with confidence. We can approach God in prayer with the confidence children have in going to their loving fathers. As Christians, we confess that God welcomes us with open arms so that we can always approach him in complete confidence as our dear Father on account of Christ, our Brother.