

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 **The 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 .

3 **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 **Morning or 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.

5 Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks

Blessing before meal

“The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” (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. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” (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	Sunday	Monday	12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28
Morning	24, 150	122, 145	33, 146	2, 147:1-12	116; 147:13-21	34, 148	2, 149
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	132, 114	98, 96	119:1-24; 27	119, 121	110, 111

7 Verse of the Week: **Matthew 1:23a**

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

8 Daily Lectionary Readings

SundayIsaiah 11:1-9; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 3:16-21

MondayIsaiah 11:10-16; Revelation 20:1-10; John 5:30-47

Tuesday.....Isaiah 28:9-22; Revelation 20:11-21:8; Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday....Zechariah 2:10-13; 1 John 4:7-16; John 3:31-36

Thursday2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 7:59-8:8

FridayProverbs 8:22-30; 1 John 5:1-12; John 13:20-35

SaturdayIsaiah 49:13-23; Isaiah 54:1-13; Matthew 18:1-14

9 **The Collect for the Week**

Fourth Sunday in Advent Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Day 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.

10 **Catechism Portion for the Week**

The Second Article (Part 1) of the Apostles’ Creed – That his followers know his proper identity seemed to matter to Jesus. He once asked, “Who do people say that I am?” And He received many different answers. Popular conceptions at the time involved thinking that Jesus might be John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But inspired by the Holy Spirit Peter correctly answered Jesus “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” If you asked people today what people thought of Jesus you would get quite a variety of answers. But as Christians we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus is our Lord and that He is both true God and true man.

11 **Portion of the Catechism and Luther’s Explanation**

The Second Article
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.

What does this mean?
I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all

sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

12

Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism

Prayer based on the Second Article (Part 1) of the Apostles' Creed - Lord Jesus Christ, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, I give You thanks that you have become my Brother. Give me the confidence and boldness to confess You as my Lord and so live and die within Your loving care; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 175]

13

Intercessory Prayer

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| ✝ Heather Roll (breast cancer) | ✝ stomach cancer) |
| ✝ Jenny Whitman (friends of the Benruds paralyzed from a fall) | ✝ Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain. |
| ✝ Bev Kuehn (regulating medicines and dealing with diabetes) | ✝ Brad Benrud with blurry vision in his left eye. |
| ✝ Heather Wesner (Jessica Schoonover's sister with breast and | |

14

Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday's Lessons

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem: *stnz 1* O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight. *stnz 2* For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth! *stnz 3* How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in. *stnz 4* O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel! Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93 Text: Public domain

For December 29, 2024, First Sunday after Christmas: **Exodus 12:1-3a, 11-15** God commands the Israelites to consecrate every firstborn male.; **Psalms 111** "He sent redemption to His people."; **Colossians 3:12-17** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."; **Luke 2:22-40** Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.