

## 11 RECITE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM AND MEANING

### What is the Fourth Commandment?

Honor your father and your mother.

### What does this mean for us?

We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.

## 12 PRAYER BASED ON THE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM

**Prayer based on Fourth Commandment:** Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is given: give unto us gratitude for the gifts of parents and others in authority and the humility to serve, obey, love, and cherish them as they fulfill the duties and responsibilities you have assigned to them in this life; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 84]

## 13 IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK - INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- ⇒ For Carol Halderson coping with dementia
- ⇒ For Buff Peterson coping with pulmonary functioning
- ⇒ For Janet Sisul being cared for
- ⇒ For Lisa Cash in caring for her father Daniel
- ⇒ For Karri Bjornstad's father, Birger Eklov, battling cancer.
- ⇒ For Pastor Dave Steffenson battling cancer

## 14 HYMN OF THE WEEK AND UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

**Prepare the Royal Highway** LBW 26: *stnz 1* Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley, A level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story; Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word! *stnz 2* God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word! *stnz 3* Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; Their voices join your singing: Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word! *stnz 4* His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

**For December 13, Third Sunday in Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** "The Lord has anointed me to preach good news."; **Psalm 126** "The LORD has done great things for us."; **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** "Be joyful always. . . . Do not put out the Spirit's fire."; **John 1:6-8, 19-28** "Make straight the way for the Lord."



## The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Advent  
December 6 through December 12

**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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	24, 150	122, 145	33, 146	50, 147:1-12	18:1-20, 147:13-21	102, 148	90, 149
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	85, 94	53, 17	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72

**7 RECITE THE VERSE OF THE WEEK: Mark 1:4**

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

**Theme of the Week:** The Forerunner Prepares the Way

**8 READ DAILY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

**SUN**

Isaiah 5:1-7; 2 Peter 3:11-18; Luke 7:28-35

**MON**

Isaiah 5:8-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Luke 21:20-28

**TUE**

Isaiah 5:18-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; Luke 21:29-38

**WED**

Isaiah 6:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 ; John 7:53-8:11

**THU**

Isaiah 7:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Luke 22:1-13

**FRI**

Isaiah 7:10-25; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5; Luke 22:14-30

**SAT**

Isaiah 8:1-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18; Luke 22:31-38

**9 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 Fourth Commandment** *Honor your father and mother.* – God gives parents a unique task that serves the well-being of all society. Luther called the Office of Father and Mother the highest in the land. He notes that of the Ten Commandments, God has singled out parents as authorities to be honored. Second only to the fear, love, and trust of God alone, God has commanded that we honor and obey our parents. And as Luther will duly instruct, parents need quite a supporting cast to help them hold society together and raise children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. This supporting cast includes Pastors, Teachers, Governing Authorities, Civic Leaders, Administrators, Law Enforcement Officers, and the like. Interestingly, even as He hung on the cross, Jesus honored His mother as He was dying. And he did so by commending her to the care of His beloved disciple (cf. Jn. 19:25-27). As with all other commandments, Jesus kept the Fourth Commandment! As Christians, we give parents special honor as God’s representatives on earth – gifts of God through whom He gave us the gift of life.