

## 11 RECITE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM AND MEANING

### The Second Article

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.

### What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.

At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil – not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

*All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.*

## 12 PRAYER BASED ON THE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM

**Prayer based on the Second Article (Part 3) of the Apostles' Creed**—King of glory, by Your mercy and compassion, You gave Yourself over to death on the cross to obtain everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for me and all believers. By Your Spirit, keep me firm in this faith that I might always live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in joy and peace even as You have been raised from the dead and live and reign to all eternity. Amen.

[from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 194]

## 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 Pastor Dave Steffenson battling cancer                 | ⇒ For Daniel Simonson, Lisa Cash's father                            |
| ⇒ For Sue Reget who suffered a brain aneurism                | ⇒ For Anne Warner with a hip replacement                             |
| ⇒ For Doris Stanke, Anne Warner's mother, with dementia      | ⇒ For Ruth Scholze recovering from hip replacement surgery           |
| ⇒ For Barbara Anderson newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma |  |

## 14 HYMN OF THE WEEK AND UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

**On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry** LBW 36: *stnz 1* On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings! *stnz 2* Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within, And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there. *stnz 3* We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward; Without your grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay. *stnz 4* Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, And make us rise to fall no more; Oh, let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine. *stnz 5* All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won, Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.

**For December 12, Third Sunday in Advent: Zephaniah 3:14-20** Shout, O daughter of Zion; **Psalms 85** "Surely, His salvation is near to those who fear Him."; **Philippians 4:4-7** Rejoice always! The Lord is near.; **Luke 7:18-28** "I send My messenger before Your face."



## 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 5 through December 11

**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: **Luke 3:3**

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

## Theme of the Week: Preparing the Way With Repentance

## 8 READ DAILY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

SUN

Amos 6:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Luke 1:57-68

MON

Amos 7:1-9; Revelation 1:1-8; Matthew 22:23-33

TUE

Amos 7:10-17; Revelation 1:9-16; Matthew 22:34-46

WED

Amos 8:1-14; Revelation 1:17--2:7; Matthew 23:1-12

THU

Amos 9:1-10; Revelation 2:8-17; Matthew 23:13-26

FRI

Haggai 1:1-15; Revelation 2:18-29; Matthew 23:27-39

SAT

Haggai 1:1-15; Revelation 2:18-29; Matthew 23:27-39

## 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 Second Article (Part 3) of the Apostles' Creed** – As the resurrection accounts recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John demonstrate, the appearance of Jesus, raised from the dead, to his disciples would change their lives forever. It gave their lives new meaning and purpose. Jesus explained to them in Luke 24:46f, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” As Christians, we confess that our salvation and happiness rests on Jesus our Lord. He sets us free to live under His care and serve Him and our neighbors.