GIF†*of* The GRACE

THERAN CHURG

The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer For the Week of the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany January 19 through January 25



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.



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 .



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

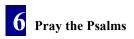
"The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Ps. 145: 15–16)

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



General Wk 2	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	19, 150	135, 145	123, 146	15; 147:1-12	116, 147:13- 21	130, 148	56, 149
Evening	81, 113	97, 112	30, 86	48, 4	80, 27	32, 139	100, 63



Verse of the Week: John 2:11

Alleluia. This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. Alleluia.

8 Daily Lectionary Readings

SundayIsaiah 43:14-44:5; Hebrews 6:17-7:10; John 4:27-42

MondayIsaiah 44:6-8, 21-23; Ephesians 4:1-16; Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday.....Isaiah 44:9-20; Ephesians 4:17-32; Mark 3:19b-25

Wednesday....Isaiah 44:24-45:7; Ephesians 5:1-14; Mark 4:1-20

ThursdayIsaiah 45:5-17; Ephesians 5:15-33; Mark 4:21-34

Friday.....Isaiah 45:18-25; Ephesians 6:1-9; Mark 4:35-41

Saturday......Isaiah 46:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-24; Mark 5:1-20



The Collect for the Week

Second Sunday after the Epiphany Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Catechism Portion for the Week

The Third Article (Part 2) of the Apostles' Creed – When we read the description of the Church in Acts 2:42-47 we will note a number of instructive elements. Those who had just been baptized devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers. This is the Holy Spirit's work to gather believers together to hear the preaching of the Gospel, to share in the Lord's Supper, and to do so in the context of the prayers of the Church. We continue to read of the common life shared by believers and the desire to gather together often. God did not create us to live in isolation from one another, but as he calls us to faith in his Son, we are joined to Christ as various members of Christ's body, the Church. It is within the context of Christ's Church that we continue to receive the forgiveness of sins that we desperately need in order to have life and salvation.

11 Portion of the Catechism and Luther's Explanation

The Third Article

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all

believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

12 Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism

Prayer based on the Third Article (Part 2) of the Apostles' Creed - Holy Father, by your Spirit you brought me to faith in your Son and made me a member of his Body, the Church. I thank you that you daily and richly forgive my many sins, giving me comfort and peace in this life and a certain hope for the life to come. Give me joy in the promise you made to me in Baptism and a ready heart to hear and keep your Word; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 221]

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Intercessory Prayer

- ✤ Heather Roll (breast cancer)
- Jenny Whitman (friends of the Benruds paralyzed from a fall)
- Vivian Hanson (Cyndi Molstad's mother who suffered a stroke)
- Bev Kuehn (regulating medicines and dealing with diabetes)
- Heather Wesner (Jessica Schoonover's sister with breast and

stomach cancer)

- Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain.
- Brad Benrud with blurry vision in his left eye.
- For Anne Waner with upcoming tests for her heart health.

4 Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday's Lessons

408 Come, Join in Cana's Feast: *stnz 1* Come, join in Cana's feast Where Christ is honored guest. He welcomes all who come to taste The wine His hands have blessed. *stnz 2* The old wine now is gone From jars that stand apart. No longer can it satisfy The yearning, thirsting heart. *stnz 3* But Christ, the Word made flesh, Bids water turn to wine. He fills our empty cups again With grace and truth divine. *stnz 4* Come, friends, and share the feast; Here drink the wine supplied By Him who is both guest and host—For us, the crucified. *stnz 5* For now He lives and reigns Through all eternity With Father, Spirit, Three in One, The glorious Trinity. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Text: © 1993 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130404864

For January 26, 2025, Third Sunday after the Epiphany: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ezra reads the Law to the people.; Psalm 19:7-14 "The Law of the LORD is perfect."; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a We are all a part of the Body of Christ.; Luke 4:16-30 Jesus preaches in the synagogue. "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."