

# The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *The First Sunday after Christmas*

Sunday, December 30, 2018 *through* Saturday, January 5, 2019

## **“The Seed of David Comes to His Temple”**

Isaiah 11:1-5; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40

A shoot has come forth from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1–5)—the Seed of David, whose Kingdom shall be established forever (2 Samuel 7:1–16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, Jesus, to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Galatians 4:1–7). Now, He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be **“a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel”** (Luke 2:22–40). Christ has enlightened us in baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the Holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in Him.

**INVOCATION** (*make the sign of the holy 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 is seated 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.

**PSALM**          Psalm 89

**THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION**

*Article XI: Confession*

See *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, pp. 35-37, 155-157

**DAILY READINGS**

Sunday, December 30: Isaiah 58:1-59:21

Luke 1:26-38

Monday, December 31: Isaiah 60:1-22

Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday, January 1: Isaiah 61:1-11

*Happy New Year!* Luke 1:57-80

Wednesday, January 2: Isaiah 62:1-12

Luke 2:1-20

Thursday, January 3: Isaiah 63:1-14

Luke 2:21-40

Friday, January 4: Isaiah 63:15-65:7

Luke 2:41-52

Saturday, January 5: Isaiah 65:8-25

Luke 3:1-20

**HYMN**

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

*LSB 389:1,4*

**Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens Heav'n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.**

**He undertakes a Great Exchange  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return give us His realm,  
His glory, and His Name,  
His glory, and His Name.**

**PRAYERS**

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us, and in the incarnation of Your Son, yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

### **MORNING PRAYER**

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.

### **BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all. Amen.

### **EVENING PRAYER**

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.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *The Epiphany of Our Lord***

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 24

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn of the Day

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

LSB 395