

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Jesus Is the Perfect Israel

Genesis 46:1–7; 1 Peter 4:12–19; Matthew 2:13–23

Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Genesis 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matthew 2:13–23),

that the prophecy might be fulfilled, **“Out of Egypt I called my Son”** (Hosea 11:1).

Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us.

Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Peter 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.



✠ THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ✠

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.

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.

PSALMODY *(sing or read out loud each day)*

Psalm 77

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: The Ten Commandments

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 35	Genesis 32	2 Chronicles 9	Acts 1
Monday:	Psalm 36	Genesis 33	2 Chronicles 10	Acts 2
Tuesday:	Psalm 37	Genesis 34	2 Chronicles 11	Acts 3:1-4:31
Wednesday:	Psalm 38	Genesis 35	2 Chronicles 12	Acts 4:32-6:7
Thursday:	Psalm 39	Genesis 36	2 Chronicles 13	Acts 6:8-7:60
Friday:	Psalm 40	Genesis 37	2 Chronicles 14	Acts 8
Saturday:	Psalm 41	Genesis 38	2 Chronicles 15	Acts 9:1-31

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Thine Honor Save, O Christ, Our Lord

TLH 265

PRAYERS

The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Monday: For faith to live in the promise of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God's Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ's holy gifts.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your Incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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, those in need, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *The First Sunday after the Epiphany*

1 Kings 8:6–13

Psalm 50

Romans 12:1–5

Luke 2:41–52

Hymn of the Day

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395