THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Daily Devotional & Scripture Reading Suggestions

The week of the

First Sunday after Christmas

Families and individuals are encouraged to pray and confess as much of this order of meditation as they are able, or as their family size and ages dictate. If able, the head of the home should lead the family in devotion, with the entire family speaking the words in ***bold****.*

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of + the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Luther's 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. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The appointed Scripture reading from one of the following schedules or another reading may be read. An excerpt from a devotional book and its supplemental Scripture verses may be read in this place as well. The reading/devotion may be followed by discussion and/or questions & answers for better understanding.

	Through the Bible in Two Years	(or)	Family Bible Readings	
Sunday:	(Re-read Sunday's Lessons)		(Re-read Sunday's Sunday School story)	
Monday:	Revelation 14		1 Kings 12:20-33	Jeroboam and the golden calves
Tuesday:	Revelation 15		1 Kings 13:1-34	The Man of God comes to Bethel
Wednesday:	Revelation 16		1 Kings 14:1-20	The house of Jeroboam & the N. Kingdom
Thursday:	Revelation 17		1 Kings 14:21-32	The house of Rehoboam & the S. Kingdom
Friday:	Revelation 18		1 Kings 16:29-17:7	King Ahab and the drought
Saturday:	Revelation 19		- - - -	

Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 there 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.

Hymn

One or more verses from Sunday's Hymn of the Day (*) or from one of the following hymns may be sung or spoken.

269*	"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart"	77	"In His Temple Now Behold Him"
37	"Once Again My Heart Rejoices"	78	"O Light of Gentile Nations"
41	"Let All Together Praise Our God"	329	"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Reading from the Small Catechism

A section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism may be read with the goal of each family member being able to memorize a sensible portion.

The Ten Commandments: The Fourth Commandment

Preschool + *What is the Fourth Commandment?*

Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

Second Grade + *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions [1]

An excerpt from the Book of Concord (The Lutheran Confessions) may be read here or at another time during the day.

Monday:	Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration	76-86	pages	623-625
Tuesday:	Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration	87 – IX 3	pages	625-626
Wednesday:	Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration	X 1-13	pages	626-628
Thursday:	Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration	14-25	pages	628-631
Friday:	Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration	26 – XI 4	pages	631-632

Prayer

In addition to the previous Sunday's Prayer of the Day, the following themes may be incorporated into your daily prayer routine.

Sunday:	Pray for the joy of the resurrection; for the fruit of faith nourished by the gospel; and for God to continue to shine the light of his gospel into this world of darkness.
Monday:	Pray for your calling and daily work; for workers and the unemployed, your neighbors, schools, teachers, students, and civil authorities – that all may give glory to God.
Tuesday:	Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted, despairing, suffering and oppressed – that all may know deliverance from sin through Christ.
Wednesday:	Pray for marriage; for families and individuals, communities and neighborhoods – that all may live in harmony and believers may rejoice in being children of God.
Thursday:	Pray for the Christian Church; for pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who serve Christ; for the spread of the gospel and the proper use of the sacraments.
Friday:	Pray for the sick, the injured, and the dying – that all may know the eternal life that comes through Jesus' death and resurrection.
Saturday:	Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of faith in those who are withering or who have fallen away; for believers as they prepare to receive God's grace.

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.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[1] Courtesy of Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.