

Daily Prayer

December 22-28

Use this booklet at home to aid in your personal or family devotions.

Collects of the Day

Christmas Day:

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Sunday After Christmas:

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.

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; 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.

Luther's 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.

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.

Scripture Readings

In preparation for next Sunday's worship, the following passages from scripture and the Book of Concord may be read.

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas

Monday:

Old Testament: Isaiah 63:7-14

Tuesday:

Psalm 111

Wednesday:

New Testament: Galatians 4:4-7

Thursday:

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Friday:

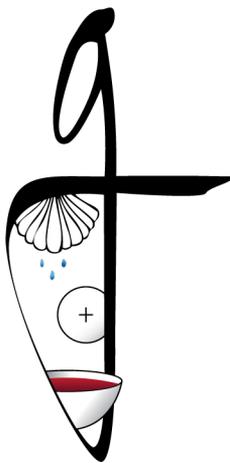
Book of Concord Reading:

"We are justified through faith. Melancthon explains at length what the Bible teaches about faith. Christ's perfect obedience to His Father's will (Galatians 4:4-5) and His sacrificial death on the cross (Colossians 1:22) won forgiveness of sins for the whole world (1 John 2:2). How do we personally receive Christ's universal righteousness and atonement? We receive these gifts through faith and faith alone. God gives us faith as a gift, through which Christ's righteousness is credited to us (Ephesians 2:8-9) and our sins are forgiven (Romans 3:22-24).

Melanchthon carefully states that by no means do the Lutherans consider faith to be mere intellectual assent to historic truths; the devil and ungodly people have this sort of 'faith.' Justifying faith is God-instilled trust that believes the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is 'for me.' It is firm acceptance of God's offer promising forgiveness of sins and justification. Faith is always personal and individual. No one can have faith for another."

*Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, 85:
Justification.*

All passages from the Book of Concord are quoted from *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, CPH, 2006.



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