

# Daily Prayer

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

## **Collect of the Day**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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.

### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

#### **Monday:**

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14

#### **Tuesday:**

Psalm 24

#### **Wednesday:**

New Testament: Romans 1:1-7

#### **Thursday:**

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

#### **Friday:**

Book of Concord Reading:

“The true judgment about predestination must be learned alone from the Holy Gospel about Christ, in which it is clearly testified, ‘For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all [Romans 11:32]; not wishing that any should perish, but that all

should reach repentance' [2 Peter 3:9], and believe in the Lord Christ. (See also Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11, 18; 1 John 2:2.)

"Now, let whoever is concerned about God's revealed will act on the order that St. Paul has described in the Epistle to the Romans. Paul first directs people to repentance [Romans 1-2], to knowledge of sins [Romans 3:1-20], to faith in Christ [Romans 3:21-5:21], to divine obedience [Romans 6-8]. Then he speaks of the mystery of God's eternal election [Romans 9-11]. This doctrine is useful and consolatory to the person who proceeds in this way.

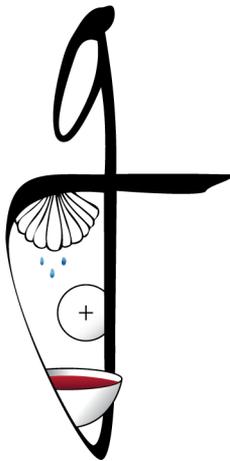
"However, 'many are called, but few are chosen' [Matthew 22:14]. This does not mean that God is unwilling to save everybody. But the reason some are not saved is as follows: They do not listen to God's Word at all, but willfully despise it, plug their ears, and harden their hearts. In this way they block the ordinary way [Luke 16:29-31] for the Holy Spirit so He cannot perform His work in them. Or, when they have heard God's Word, they make light of it again and ignore it. But their wickedness is responsible for this, not God or His election (2 Peter 2:1-3; Luke 11:49-52; Hebrews 12:25-26).

"A Christian should concern himself with the article about God's eternal election only as far as it has been revealed in God's Word. His Word presents Christ to us as the Book of Life, which He opens and reveals to us by the preaching of the Holy Gospel, as it is written in Romans 8:30, 'And those whom He predestined He also called.' In Him we are to seek the eternal election of the Father, who has determined in his eternal divine counsel [Ephesians 1:11-12] that He would save no one except those who know His Son Christ and truly believe in Him. Other thoughts are to be entirely banished from the minds of the godly. For they do not come from God, but from the

suggestion of the evil foe. With such thoughts he attempts to weaken or entirely remove us from the glorious comfort we have in this helpful doctrine. In other words, we know assuredly that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10:29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it with the holy Sacraments. We can call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6:16]."

- Formula of Concord (Epitome XI:10-13)

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



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