

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord
January 13-18, 2025

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able,
or as your family size and ages permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

Invocation: In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speak the Apostles' Creed.

Verse: Isaiah 62:5 – *“For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”*

Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #408 *“Come, Join in Cana’s Feast”*

Readings for the Week: *[The readings for Thursday-Saturday are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.]*

Monday	Psalm 128	<i>How are husbands and wives and children gifts from God? Do we see them that way? How does this apply to Jesus and the Church?</i>
Tuesday	Amos 9:11-15	<i>What has sin done to our lives? What does God promise to do? How will He do it? For whom?</i>
Wednesday	Ephesians 5:22-33	<i>What marriage should all Christian marriages strive to emulate? Why is this so hard? Why is this good?</i>
Thursday	Isaiah 62:1-5	<i>Why is Isaiah so filled with joy? What great reversal does he foresee? How will that happen? Who else will be filled with joy?!</i>
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	<i>“Misinformation” is an oft used word nowadays. What misinformation was Paul combatting? What does the Spirit enable us to confess? Why are He and His gifts given?</i>
Saturday	John 2:1-11	<i>John says this miracle was the first of Jesus’ signs. What’s a sign? What is this a sign of? What was Jesus “hour?” How does this sign point to Jesus’ hour and what He would do then?</i>

The Catechism – The Commandments, the First Commandment: You shall have no other gods. *What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.*

Collect for the Week: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen

The Prayers: Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
 - + God’s blessing, wisdom, and guidance for our congregation’s keyboardists and musicians.
 - + the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod, for God’s wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
 - + God’s blessing, guidance, and provision for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.
- Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.*

Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!

In our prayers this week, we remember:

For **the people in Los Angeles** impacted by the wildfires.

For **Melody and her baby**, for God's blessing, health, and strength.

Thanksgiving to God for a kidney for **Maureen**, and for continued health and strength.

For our **state legislators**, that the Lord would change their hearts for life that proposed constitutional amendments would not pass.

For those who are elderly and/or homebound: **Roy and Carris**, on hospice care; **Reinhardt, Marilyn and Buddy** (Janet's parents), and **Charlie** (Eric's friend).

Jenny (TJ's friend) seriously injured in a fall.

Christina (friend of the congregation and former attender), **Tricia** (neighbor of the Vondals), and **Joel** (friend of the Johnson's), recovering from strokes.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Susan Kunkel, Jeremy** (Jacob's brother), **Anthony** (friend of Pastor) **Greg** (Nancy Nus' cousin), **Lynden** (Tuck's father), **Erika** (Carris' nephew's wife), **Linda** (Mickey's sister), **Brad** (Carris' brother-in-law), **Mary Ann** (former member), **Adriana** and **Kristen** (friends of the Killians), and **Pam** (friend of the Vondals).

Lee (friend of TJ and Randy) and **Suress** (friend of Elizabeth), in need of a kidney for transplant; and **David** (Marcus' father) for safety.

Kim (John Schatz's mother), **Ruth, George, and Lena**, for continued health and healing.

Sophia, Timothy (friend of Marcus), **Kristoffer** (Lena's son), and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth), for protection, peace, hope, strength, and faith.

Jonathan Malekzadeh, Jacque (Mickey's sister), **Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé), and **Nikki** (niece of Kathy Kielmeyer) for strength and continued health.

Kim and Dan (friends of Ben) for their upcoming marriage.

The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

Sahilis (Viviana's sister), **Scott** (friend of Scott Killian), **Thomas** (Angela Keiser's brother), **Traci** (friend of Elizabeth Libby), **Dorothy and Mackenzie, and their families**, for unity, protection, peace, and faith.

Leslie, Dorris, and their children (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

Fatma (friend of our church), **Lindsey** (TJ's friend's daughter), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth Libby), and **Tamim and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For the **Wolf family** (missionaries to Africa), **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (mission work in Philadelphia), and **Rev. Charles St-Onge** (mission work in Quebec), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For our catechumens: **Robert Libby, Juliana Malekzadeh, Amy and Dan Miksa, Hudson Royster,** and **Cyrus Teixeira**

For our seminary students: **Caleb Hoverson, Nathaniel Hall** (Keiser's son-in-law), and **Thomas Malmstrom**.

For our college students: **Abigail Abegg, Joanna Douthwaite, Ben Galloway, Anna Kautz, Tristan Price,** and **Joshua Vigil**.

That God would open the hearts of officials in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties to allow **Safe Harbor Baby Boxes** to be placed in our area.

The people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza, for peace, protection, and an end to the war, and for God to provide for those separated and displaced, especially the children.

For those serving our country in the military: **Joe and Jackie Teixeira, Juliana Wing, Zechariah Vigil,** **Joshua Ecker,** and **John Boling** (friend of the Vondals).

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Richard and Lena Rush**

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless **our mission church, Hope Lutheran Mission, in Purcellville, and our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County.**

+ + +

Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Peter Brondos
Vice President: Scott Killian
Recording Secretary: TJ Myers
Treasurer: Logan Hansen
Financial Secretary: Dave Fields
Executive Board, Member-at-Large: Rob Douthwaite
Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian

Board of Evangelism and Outreach: Kathy Kilmeyer (Chair) and Nancy Nus

Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Jonathan Malekzadeh

Building Committee: Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Scott Killian

Investment Committee: Logan Hansen and Scott Killian

Social Media Coordinator: *vacant*

Commission on Mercy: Grace Killian and Caroline Trundle

Sunday School Teachers: Scott and Grace Killian

Pastoral Assistant: Grace Killian

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless a future **deaf mission at St. Athanasius, our mission church, Hope Lutheran Church, in Purcellville, and our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County.**

About this Sunday: The Baptism of Our Lord

The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. In divine mercy, He takes His place with sinners and takes their sin upon Himself. “When all the people were baptized,” Jesus submitted Himself to a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:21). He had no sins of His own, but He took the sins of the world upon Himself and so was baptized into His own death. Therefore, “when you pass through the waters,” He is with you (Is. 43:2). He created you for His glory, and He has redeemed you with His blood, that you may be His own and live with Him in His kingdom (Is. 43:1, 7). As you are baptized with a Baptism like His, so also are you united with Him in His death and resurrection that you “might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). For all who are baptized into Christ Jesus receive His anointing of the Holy Spirit and are named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.



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saint.athanasius



saint-athanasius.org

This Week at Saint Athanasius

Monday-Friday
Tuesday, January 14

Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
School Chapel, 8:30 am
Youth Catechesis, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 15-
Sunday, January 19

Pastor away at SELC District Convention

Thursday, January 16
Sunday, January 19

School Chapel, 8:30 am
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 am
Divine Service, 10:15 am
Chaplain Michael Sneath, Guest Pastor
Executive Board, 12:00 Noon

Next week's hymns: 394, 408, 637, 954, 399, 822

FOR YOU blog – Spread the word! hopeandhelp-foryou.blogspot.com

(Home)school Chapel: Don't let this be one of your "I wish I had done that's!" Join our children for School Chapel live on our YouTube channel at 8:30 am Tuesday and Thursday, or watch the recording later. You know you want to! You know you need to! Make this a priority. You won't regret it.

NO Online Bible Study this week as Pastor will be in Florida for the SELC District Convention. We'll be back next week and begin Acts chapter 9. See you then!

Pot Luck Luncheon on **Sunday, February 2nd** after Church. The last few potlucks we've had were for special occasions. *This one is just for us!* An opportunity for us to get together, talk, share, and build the bonds of our fellowship. Get it on your calendar and plan to stay. *We'll miss you if you don't!*

Life Thought: "From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), God's began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Educating a New Generation of Lutherans . . . Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: The Bible & Other Religious Writings; The Small-Town Lutheran Church & Pastor; Church Discipline; Roman Catholic Indulgences and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

Opportunity for Service: A time of food and fellowship after Church every Sunday is an important time for our congregation to get to know and care for one another. We are always in need of folks to bring some refreshments for this time. This is an easy way for you to help and serve! It doesn't have to be much or fancy, and you can team up with others as well. Can you help in this way? Speak to Angela Keiser to sign up or for more information.

Opportunity for Study: Every Monday-Friday morning at 7:00 Pastor leads "Morning Prayer on the Web," a time to start your day off in the Word of God and prayer. This is on our WebEx video conferencing service and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Luther once said that he was so busy that if he did not start his day in the Word of God and prayer, he would often not get back to it! You too? Join us here! Go to <saint-athanasius.org/WebExInstr.html> for more information on how to log on and join us, or speak to Pastor if you need more help.



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of "**Phil's Friends!**" See Caroline Trundle for more information.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

January 24	March for Life
January 26	Commemoration of St. Titus and Sanctity of Life Sunday
February 2	Commemoration of the Presentation of Our Lord Potluck Luncheon after Church