

*For the week of the Second Sunday in Advent
December 4th, through December 10th, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Enfleshed: The Spiritual Body” Many in Christendom do not believe in a physical resurrection on the Last Day. Instead, inspired by theologies of Gnosticism and the rapture, they believe an eternal, spiritual existence. This has led to people embracing a whole other slew of falsehoods, such as people becoming angels when they die. One of the places I have heard people point in support of their beliefs is Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. “So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a *natural body*; it is raised a *spiritual body*. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body” (15:42-44, emphasis added). There it is! The distinction between physical and spiritual...or is that truly what Paul is saying?

To begin, Paul’s distinction here is not between *physical* and spiritual, but between *natural* and spiritual. The *physical* part is *the body*, and Paul distinctly calls what is raised a spiritual *body*. He begins this discussion by speaking of Christ’s resurrection. The irony is that Paul’s whole point in this passage is that there IS a physical resurrection. “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised,” (13). The Gospels go a great length to establish that Christ did indeed raise *bodily* from the dead. They touched Him and He ate with them. There was a body, Christ’s body, risen from the dead.

Paul then continues on to say, “Thus it is written ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit,” (45). Of course Jesus wasn’t a spirit without a body. To argue such places you fully outside of Christianity. So how could Paul say that He was a life-giving spirit? Paul continues on to speak of their origin. Adam was from the earth, from dust; Christ is from heaven. What Adam could not accomplish because he was only a man, Christ could because He is also God. And through Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension, and union with us in Baptism and faith, we who bear the image of fallen humanity through faith also bear the image of God’s Son. He gives us life through His Spirit. It reminds me of John 3, when Jesus tells Nicodemus we must be born again.

But a spiritual body doesn’t just await us in the resurrection. We are being remade in the image of Christ even now by the power of the Holy Spirit. By grace, our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit. Living this life in the Spirit is what it means to have spiritual bodies.

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 dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: PSALM 51:1

Have mercy on my, O god, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

PSALM 72 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

To You, our heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts with joyous thanks, because You have granted us the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom we have everlasting life. Preserve in us this saving knowledge, that we may hear His voice with joy, and may go with Him into His eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	129, 130, 131	134, 135	137, 138	140, 141	144	146	148	1, 2
Evening	132, 133	136	139	142, 143	145	147	149, 150	3, 4

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	
Monday	Jacob Returns to Bethel—Genesis 35:1-15	John 9:24-41
Tuesday	Joseph's Dream and His Brothers Sell Him into Slavery—Genesis 37:1-36	John 10:1-21
Wednesday		
Thursday	Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt—Genesis 39:1-23	John 10:22-42
Friday	Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison—Genesis 40:1-23	John 11:1-16
Saturday	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-11

CATECHISM — The Lord's Prayer, The Fifth & Sixth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.	Second Grade+
And lead us not into temptation.	Preschool+
<i>What is meant by daily bread?</i> God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.	Third Grade+

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Prayer on the Fifth & Sixth Petition

Heavenly Father, guard and keep us from the assaults of the devil, the deception of the world, and the desires of our sinful nature. Protect us that we may not be deceived or misled by lies about You, be overcome by despair of Your mercy, or be seduced into a way of life that leads only to death. Shield us by Your grace and strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit that we may withstand every attack and finally win the victory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Week

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday: For faith to live in the promises 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 the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, 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 the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and 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 and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: Carol Bauck; Gene & Stephanie Beauchamp; Larry & Marlene Bender; Ronald & Sherri Berr; Dave & Connie Breidenbach; Oliva & Todd Browning; Fay Bryan; Kristen Bryan, Kurtis Bryan; Marty & Jan Burik; Kathleen Butel; Michael & Deb Carey.

Baptismal Birthdays: Debbie Hunsaker; Zoey Mingle; Aiden Entress; Colton Leadbetter; Hailey Watkins; Sally Crane.

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Sick:

Friends of our Congregation: Randall Roth, Pastor Roth's father; Judy, sister of Marty Piotrowsky

Our Circuit:

St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Rev. Don Haselhuhn

Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Jim Bradshaw, Education and Youth; Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Our Community: City of Ottawa; Ottawa University; Neosho Community College

Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly

Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

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.

—or—

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.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

344

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| 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! | 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. | △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. |
| 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay. | |

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "Third Sunday in Advent"

December 11 2022

Service Hymns: 345, 349, 350, 515

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 | James 5:7-11 | Matthew 11:2-15

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see "the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, "be patient" and "establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up," so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that "sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Is. 35:10).

