

*For the week of the Third Sunday in Advent  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, through December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Enfleshed: The Spousal Body”** The question of sexuality has loomed large in recent decades. During the first midweek of Advent, we examined how God gives us our identity through our bodies. The most foundational layer of this identity is our sexuality. Lest anyone think this is an overstatement, we read in Genesis that God made us in His own image as “male and female.” That statement should give pause to any serious reader. God is neither “male” nor “female”, so why does God connect our sexuality to being made in His image? And why does it have such a prominent place?

The first layer of our identity God gives is our humanity. “God created man (אָדָם) in his own image.” *Man* here contains no sexual distinction, but in the next verse God creates them male (זָכָר) and female (אִשָּׁה). God gives us no other identity markers to all humanity during creation. Only man, which is subdivided into male and female. So what’s going on?

To be sure, we are meant to reflect the image of God individually. However, together we reflect God to a greater degree. God is our living and life-giving God. He is also a loving God. Nowhere is this better seen than in the spousal union between a man and a woman, and by extension all human relationships. Through the union of a man and a woman, God allows us to participate in His life-giving creative action. And this union is an incarnate image of who God is. That is why His first command to Adam and Eve were, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...” (Gen 1:28).

It is only through procreation that they could obey God’s command. This reflects His love of giving life, and it spreads His image throughout the earth. But not only does this one-flesh union reflect in us the living and life-giving God, but it also shows us the God who is love. Just as a man and woman are united in body and soul through holy matrimony for life, God also unites with us. We see this most clearly in Jesus. Jesus became flesh and blood to unite with our flesh and blood and draw us into Himself.

In becoming man, Jesus could redeem humanity. He acts as the faithful bridegroom who gives Himself to make us His own. He is faithful to us, even when we are unfaithful. His love for us redeems us and by virtue of our unity with Him, He makes us holy once again. We, the Church, as the bride who has been made lovely by His love, receive our life from Him, and therefore we submit to His headship and He leads us into life. Then, together, Christ and His Church through their union bring each and every one of us as individuals to new life.

Marriage is meant to be an incarnate picture of God’s love for us. When we honor the one flesh union between man and woman, whether we are married or single, we continue to reflect who God is and all that He does for us.

### ***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: MATTHEW 7:7-8**

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and the one who knocks it will be opened.*

## PSALM 146 or the appointed daily psalms

### Prayer on the Psalm

Many times have You, O Lord, our God, been our help in the time of need. Many times You have guarded us in danger and kept us from evil. Thanks and praise to You for Your merciful kindness. Withdraw not Your hand from us because of our sins, but remember Your great mercy, and let Your grace and help be with us at all times, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5, 6	8	10	13, 14, 15	18	20, 21	23, 24
Evening	3, 4	7	9	11, 12	16, 17	19	22	25

## BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-15	
Monday	Gabriel Appears to Zechariah—Luke 1:5-25	John 11:17-37
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	John 11:38-57
Wednesday		
Thursday	Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	John 12:1-26
Friday	The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56	John 12:27-50
Saturday	Isaiah 7:10-17	Romans 1:1-7

## CATECHISM — The Lord's Prayer, The Seventh Petition and Conclusion

<b>But deliver us from evil.</b>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i></p> <p>We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.</p>	Second Grade+
<b>For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.</b>	Preschool+
<p><i>What is meant by daily bread?</i></p> <p>This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."</p>	Third Grade+

## DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

### DAILY PRAYER

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

#### Prayer on the Seventh Petition and Conclusion

Our Father in heaven, grant us certainty to pray according to Your command and in the confidence that You have promised to hear us; 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:** Mike & Andrea Conner; Dewey Cook Jr; Terry & Gayle Coulson; Mike & Sally Crane; Alicia Croci; Vic & Sonya Croci; Vince Croci; Ellen Cromwell; Gary & Torybeth Daniel, Xander; Glenn Daniel; Bryan & Ginger Davis

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Ricky Lines; Eric Melton; Debbie Neies; Larry Bender

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

**The Sick:**

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

**Our Circuit:**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Adam Reichart*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Eddie Hosch*

**Our District Staff and President,** Rev. Justin Panzer.

*Rev. Dan Galchutt, Missions and Stewardship; Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

**Our Synod and President,** Rev. Matthew Harrison

**Our Community:** USD 290; Life Care Center; Hope House

**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

### "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

345

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.

△5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

### Looking Forward to "Fourth Sunday in Advent"

December 18 2022

#### **Service Hymns: Choral Cantata**

#### **Readings: Isaiah 7:10-17 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus "descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

