

*For the week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 18th, through December 24th, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Enfleshed: The Living Body” “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.” -Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

Death is all that we have ever known. From the time of Adam and Eve, the one experience common to all humanity is death. And yet God did not create our bodies for death. He created us as living bodies, bodies meant to endure with Him forever. Even in this fallen world, eternity is still in the heart of man. God gives us this hope and desire for life to continue on after death. The world that does not know Him looks for this hope in all the wrong places. They seek to prolong their life artificially, or they desire to make a name for themselves that they may live on in the memory of others.

However, we who are established by and fed and nourished on the Word of God will remain as long as His Word remains. That is to say, we will remain forever in everlasting life. Though our bodies will wear out in this life, our spirits will continue to live hidden in Christ. When Christ returns He will bring our spirits with Him, and at His Word our body and soul will reunite, and we will come out of the grave to join Jesus in eternity. This is what God created us for, life with Him. On that Day, death will leave our bodies forever, so that our renewed bodies will be filled with nothing but life and upheld only by the Word of God.

What a great day, when our bodies will be swallowed up by life to be what they were created to be: living 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: ACTS 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

PSALM 24 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	23, 24	26, 27	30, 32	33	35	37	39, 41	42, 43
Evening	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	40	44

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	
Monday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Luke 1:57-80	John 13:1-20
Tuesday	The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7	John 13:21-38
Wednesday	St. Thomas, apostle	
Thursday	The Birth of Christ is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14	John 14:1-14
Friday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20	John 14:15-31
Saturday	Isaiah 7:10-14; 1John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25	

CATECHISM — The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What is Baptism	Third Grade+
Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.	Third Grade+
Which is that word of God?	First Grade+
Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.	First Grade+
What benefits does Baptism give?	Third Grade+
It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.	Third Grade+
Which are these words and promises of God?	
Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.	

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

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

Prayer on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Lord Jesus Christ, You have forgiven our sins by Your blood, rescued us from Satan, and won for us eternal life and salvation in Your resurrection. As You bestow these gifts on us in Baptism, grant that in life and death we may always cling to our Baptism, trusting in Your promises, and finally be brought into Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Collect of the Week

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. 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: *Jack & Lisa Davis; Jay & Jean Davis; Karley Davis; Megan Davis; Tristan & Kaylyn Davis; Wade Davis; Alvin & Charlotte Dehn; Drady & Malissa Desormeaux, Bennett.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Callie Shea; Remington Dewey; Daniel White; Nathan White; Malorie Wagner; Teresa Falls; Adan Diamond; Brandi Leadbetter; Janine Wagner*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Marty & Jan Burik; Hershel & Margi Harris*

The Sick: *Yvonne Knight; Gene Beauchamp; Heidi Allan, Christophor Smith; Zechariah Smith*

Friends of our Congregation: *Jessica, friend of Thresa Scarberry; Calen, friend of Margi Harr*

Our Circuit:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Rev. Joshua Woelmer

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

Heather Williams, Business Manager; Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

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.

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum,
1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "Th Nativity of Our Lord"

December 25, 2022

Service Hymns: 379 | 386 | 367 | 384 | 370 | 380 | 358 | 388

Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10 | Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12) | John 1:1-14 (15-18)

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples "of all the nations," so that "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." The Lord has "bared his holy arm" in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, "whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world" (Heb. 1:2). As "all things were made through him" (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold "the radiance of the glory of God" (Heb. 1:3), "glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

