

♬ **Bride of Christ, Rejoice**

57

Luke 19: 28-40

Fryd dig, du Kristi Brud

Danish author unknown, c. 1600

Tr., Victor O. Petersen, 1899

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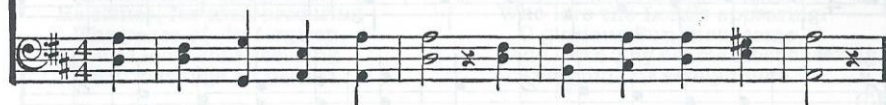
Wo soll ich fliehen hin

"Der bussfertige Sünder"

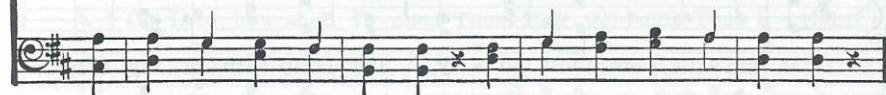
Nürnberg, 1679



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
 2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
 3 He wears no king - ly crown, Yet as a King is known;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
 Tho' not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He still makes death sur - ren - der.



Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.
 Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.
 Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee. A - men.



4 The weak and timid find
 How meek He is and kind;
 To them He gives a treasure
 Of bliss beyond all measure.
 Hosanna, praise, and glory!
 Our King, we bow before Thee.

5 Thy heart now open wide,
 Bid Christ with thee abide.
 He graciously will hear thee
 And be forever near thee.
 Hosanna, praise, and glory!
 Our King, we bow before Thee.

6 Then go thy Lord to meet;
 Strew palm-leaves at His feet;
 Thy garments spread before Him
 And honor and adore Him.
 Hosanna, praise, and glory!
 Our King, we bow before Thee.

7 E'en babes with one accord
 With thee shall praise the Lord
 And every Gentile nation
 Respond with exultation:
 Hosanna, praise, and glory!
 Our King, we bow before Thee.

Our Family Daily Prayers

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

2017-2018



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Our Family Daily Prayers – 2017/2018

Follow the order for Daily Devotions in Lutheran Worship, p.293.

Week leading to Advent One: November 27 – December 3, 2017

Psalm - Psalm 24 (LW, p.321)

Hymn - TLH #57 “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice” (see back cover)

Daily Readings –

27 Monday	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
28 Tuesday	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Pet 1:13-25
29 Wednesday	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 21:1-9	
30 Thursday	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25
No Service	St. Andrew, Apostle Deut 30:11-14, Romans 10:8-18, Matt 4:18-22	
1 Friday	Isaiah 7:10—8:8	1 Pet 3:1-22
2 Saturday	Is 8:9—9:7	1 Pet 4: 1-19
6:00 PM	Church decorating for Advent, 5 PM – 6 PM Vespers First Advent	
3 Sunday	Isaiah 9:8—10:11	1 Pet 5:1-14
10:15 AM	Advent One Jeremiah 23:5-8, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 21:1-9	

Family: “God created Adam and brought all the animals before him. Adam did not find a proper companion among them suitable for marriage, so God then said, “It is not good that Adam should be alone. I will create a helpmate for him to be with him always.” And he sent a deep sleep upon Adam, and took a rib from him, and closed his side up again. And out of this very rib taken from Adam, God created a woman and brought her to him. Then Adam said, “This is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called a woman, because she was taken from her man. This is why a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh” [Gen. 2:18–24].

All of this is from God’s word. These words teach us where man and woman come from, how they were given to one another, for what purpose a wife was created, and what kind of love there should be in the estate of marriage.

If God himself does not give the wife or the husband, anything can happen. For the truth indicated here is that Adam found no marriageable partner for himself, but as soon as God had created Eve and brought her to

Front Picture: Wartburg Castle (Pictures Courtesy of Pr. David Rohde)

Catechism - Confession, Question Three

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Collect for Transfiguration

O God, who in the glorious transfiguration of Your only begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the fathers and who, in the voice that came from the bright cloud, did in a wonderful manner

foreshow the adoption of sons, mercifully make and keep us co-heirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the enjoyment of the same; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The Old Castle Church in Wittenberg

Week leading to Transfiguration: January 15-21, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 99 (not in LW)

Hymn – #86 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Daily Readings –

15 Monday	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23
16 Tuesday	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Romans 7:1-20
17 Wednesday	Ezekiel 39:1-10,17-29	Romans 7:21-8:17
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 17:1-9	
18 Thursday	Ezekiel 40:1-4; 43:1-12	Romans 8:18-39
10:30 AM	Confession of St. Peter Ac 2:22-24, 32-33, 1 Pt 1:1-9, Mt 16:13-19	
19 Friday	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29	Romans 9:1-18
20 Saturday	Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33
21 Sunday	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21
10:15 AM	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Peter 1:16-23, Matthew.17:1-9	

Family: “In the first part we shall consider which persons may enter into marriage with one another. In order to proceed aright let us direct our attention to Genesis 1[:27], “So God created man ... male and female he created them.” From this passage we may be assured that God divided mankind into two classes, namely, male and female, or a he and a she. This was so pleasing to him that he himself called it a good creation [Gen. 1:31]. Therefore, each one of us must have the kind of body God has created for us. I cannot make myself a woman, nor can you make yourself a man; we do not have that power. But we are exactly as he created us: I a man and you a woman. Moreover, he wills to have his excellent handiwork honored as his divine creation, and not despised. The man is not to despise or scoff at the woman or her body, nor the woman the man. But each should honor the other’s image and body as a divine and good creation that is well-pleasing unto God himself” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.17).

him, he felt a real married love toward her, and recognized that she was his wife. Those who want to enter into the estate of marriage should learn from this that they should earnestly pray to God for a spouse.” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.7-8).

Catechism - The Lord’s Prayer, The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

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.

Catechism - The Lord’s Prayer, The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

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.

Collect for Advent One

(Ad Te Levavi)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come to rescue us from the threatening perils of our sins, and save us by Your promised deliverance; for You now live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Luther’s Statue in Wittenberg

Week leading to Advent Two: December 4-10, 2017

Psalm - Psalm 50 (LW, p.328-329)

Hymn - TLH #57 “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice” (see back cover)

Daily Readings –

4 Monday	Is 10:12-27a, 33-34	2Pet 1:1-21
5 Tuesday	Is 11:1—12:6	2 Pet 2:1-22
6 Wednesday	Is 14:1-23	2 Pet 3:1-18
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Luke 21:25-36	
7 Thursday	Is 24:1-13	1 John 1:1—2:14
8 Friday	Is 24:14 – 25:1-12 <i>Optional Obadiah 1-21</i>	1 John 2:15-29
9 Saturday	Is 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24
10 Sunday	Is 26:20—27:13	1 John 4:1-21
10:15 AM	Advent Two Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36	

Family: “For the sage says that parents provide goods and houses for their children, but a wife is given by God alone [Prov. 19:14], everyone according to his need, just as Eve was given to Adam by God alone. And true though it is that because of excessive lust of the flesh lighthearted youth pays scant attention to these matters, marriage is nevertheless a weighty matter in the sight of God. For it was not by accident that Almighty God instituted the estate of matrimony only for man and above all animals, and gave such forethought and consideration to marriage. To the other animals God says quite simply, “Be fruitful and multiply” [Gen. 1:22]. It is not written that he brings the female to the male. Therefore, there is no such thing as marriage among animals. But in the case of Adam, God creates for him a unique, special kind of wife out of his own flesh. He brings her to him, he gives her to him, and Adam agrees to accept her. Therefore, that is what marriage is.

A woman is created to be a companionable helpmeet to the man in everything, particularly to bear children. And that still holds good, except that since the fall marriage has been adulterated with wicked lust. And now [i.e., after the fall] the desire of the man for the woman, and vice versa, is sought after not only for companionship and children, for which purposes alone marriage was instituted, but also for the pursuance of wicked lust, which is almost as strong a motive” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.8).

Catechism - Lord’s Prayer, The Seventh Petition
But deliver us from evil. *What does this mean?*

Catechism -
Confession,
Question One
& Two
What is

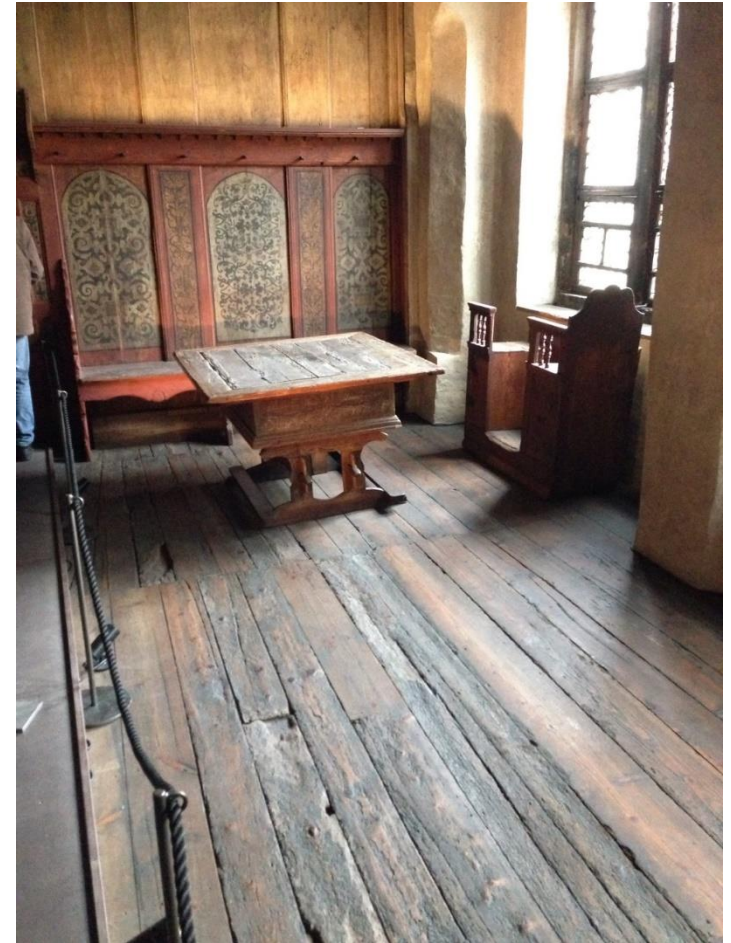
Confession?
Confession
has two parts.
First, that we
confess our
sins, and
second, that
we receive
absolution,
that is,
forgiveness,
from the
pastor as from
God Himself,
not doubting,
but firmly
believing that
by it our sins
are forgiven
before God in
heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Collect for Epiphany Two

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Your people and grant us Your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Days leading to Epiphany Two: January 8-14, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 66(not in LW) or Psalm 145(not in LW)

Hymn - #38 "Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest"

Daily Readings –

8 Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	Romans 1:18-32
9 Tuesday	Ezekiel 3:12-28 <i>Optional Ezekiel 4:1-11:25</i>	Romans 2:1-16
10 Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 <i>Optional Ezekiel 19:1-24:27</i>	Romans 2:17-29
6:30 PM	Catechesis on John 2:1-11	
11 Thursday	Ezekiel 33:1-20	Romans 3:1-18
12 Friday	Ezekiel 34:1-24	Romans 3:19-31
13 Saturday	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Romans 4:1-25
14 Sunday	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14	Romans 5:1-21
10:15 AM	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Exodus 33:12-23, Ephesians 5:22-33, John 2:1-11	

Family: “Third, [the doctors say] that marriage produces offspring, for that is the end and chief purpose of marriage. It is not enough, however, merely for children to be born, and so what they say about marriage excusing sin does not apply in this case. Heathen, too, bear offspring. But unfortunately it seldom happens that we bring up children to serve God, to praise and honor him, and want nothing else of them. People seek only heirs in their children, or pleasure in them; the serving of God finds what place it can. You also see people rush into marriage and become mothers and fathers before they know what the commandments are or can pray

But this at least all married people should know. They can do no better work and do nothing more valuable either for God, for Christendom, for all the world, for themselves, and for their children than to bring up their children well” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.12-13).

The Lutherstube

This is the room in which Martin Luther conducted his famous Table Talks with friends and colleagues. After dinner, which was eaten in the refectory on the ground floor, a small group would gather here in the evening. Participants recorded what was said for posterity. The living room was furnished in the period from 1535 to 1538. The wall paneling, parts of the floor, the table, the chest seat and the benches most likely belonged to the original ensemble. The stove was built in 1602; the rooms were painted in 1602 and 1630. As 1655 the Lutherstube was presented as the “museum lutheri”. Many visitors made chalk inscriptions on the walls, most of which were removed in the 19th century. Yet the name of Peter the Great, written on the western door during the tsar’s 1712 visit to Wittenberg, was left intact. The Lutherstube underwent extensive restoration in 2016/17. The restoration was generously supported by Prof. Dr. Jürgen Krüger and the Rudolf-August Oetker-Stiftung.

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.

The Conclusion & Meaning (LW, p. 303)

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? 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.”

Collect for Advent Two (Populus Zion)

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



Luther’s prayer book is published for the first time in 1522. Beside his Bible translation and the Small Catechism, it is the most frequently read book of the Reformer. Until his death alone, thirty-seven more editions are published. Apart from the Nuremberg print, displayed here at the Luther house, only one other copy exists.

Week leading to Advent Three: December 11-17, 2017

Psalm - Psalm 85 (not in LW)

Hymn - TLH #57 “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice” (see back cover)

Daily Readings –

11 Monday	Is 28:14—29	1 John 5:1—21 2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-15
12 Tuesday	Is 29:1—14	Jude 1—25
13 Wednesday	Is 29: 15—30: 14	Rev 1:1—19
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 11:2-11	
14 Thursday	Is 30:15—26	Rev 2:1—29
7:00 PM	Children’s Christmas Program	
15 Friday	Is 30:27—31:9	Rev 3:1—22
16 Saturday	Is 32: 1—20	Rev 4: 1—11
17 Sunday	Is 33:1—24	Rev 5:1—14
10:15 AM <i>O Wisdom</i>	Advent Three Isaiah 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 11:2-11	

Family: “God makes distinctions between the different kinds of love, and shows that the love of a man and woman is (or should be) the greatest and purest of all loves. For he says, “A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife” [Gen. 2:24], and the wife does the same, as we see happening around us every day. Now there are three kinds of love: false love, natural love, and married love. False love is that which seeks its own, as a man loves money, possessions, honor, and women taken outside of marriage and against God’s command. Natural love is that between father and child, brother and sister, friend and relative, and similar relationships.

But over and above all these is married love, that is, a bride’s love, which glows like a fire and desires nothing but the husband. She says, “It is you I want, not what is yours: I want neither your silver nor your gold; I want neither. I want only you. I want you in your entirety, or not at all.” All other kinds of love seek something other than the loved one: this kind wants only to have the beloved’s own self completely.” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.8-9).

Catechism - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, First Question

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Which is that word of God? 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.” [Matt. 28:19]

Family: “Thus the doctors {*of theology*} have found three good and useful things about the married estate, by means of which the sin of lust, which flows beneath the surface, is counteracted and ceases to be a cause of damnation.

First, It is an outward and spiritual sign of the greatest, holiest, worthiest, and noblest thing that has ever existed or ever will exist: the union of the divine and human natures in Christ....

Second, [the doctors say] that marriage is a covenant of fidelity. The whole basis and essence of marriage is that each gives himself or herself to the other, and they promise to remain faithful to each other and not give themselves to any other. By binding themselves to each other, and surrendering themselves to each other, the way is barred to the body of anyone else, and they content themselves in the marriage bed with their one companion. In this way God sees to it that the flesh is subdued so as not to rage wherever and however it pleases, and, within this plighted troth, permits even more occasion than is necessary for the begetting of children. But, of course, a man has to control himself and not make a filthy sow’s sty of his marriage....” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.9-12).

Collect for Epiphany One

O Lord, we implore You mercifully to receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Baptism of Our Lord

O God, our heavenly Father, whose voice was heard at the baptism of Your only-begotten Son, declaring Him to be the one with whom You are well-pleased, pour down Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people that we may rejoice in this same sonship that we have received from You through our baptism into Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Bronze Doors with 95 theses cast in them.



Catechism - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Fourth Question

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” [Rom. 6:4]

Collect for The Epiphany of Our Lord

O God, who by the leading of a star made manifest Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles,

mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life joyfully behold Your glorious Godhead; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



The Old Castle Church in Wittenberg where Luther posted 95 theses

Collect for Advent Three (Gaudete)

Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The Nave and Pulpit of St. George Church in Eisenach. At 15 years of age, Luther was sent to high school in Eisenach, which is near the famous Wartburg. He stayed there three years.

Week leading to Christmas Eve: December 18-24, 2017

Psalm – Dec 18-23 Psalm 19 (LW, p.318-319)

Dec 24 Psalm 98 (LW, p.338-339)

Dec 25 Psalm 2 (LW, p. 313-314)

Hymn - TLH #57 “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice” (see back cover)

Daily Readings –

18 Monday <i>O Adonai and Ruler</i>	Is 34:1-2, 8—35: 10 <i>Optional Micah 1:1—7:20</i>	Rev 6:1-17
19 Tuesday <i>O Root of Jesse</i>	Is 40:1—17	Rev 7:1—17
20 Wednesday 7:00 AM 6:30 PM <i>O Key of David</i>	Is 40:18—41:10 Matins on Ember Wednesday in Advent Isaiah 2:2-5, Isaiah 7:10-15, Luke 1:26-38 Catechesis on John 1:1-18	Rev 8:1—13
21 Thursday 10:30 AM <i>O Dayspring</i>	Is 42:1—25 St. Thomas, Apostle Habakkuk 2:1-4, Ephesians 1:3-6, John 19:24-31	Rev 9:1—12
22 Friday 7:00 AM <i>O King of the Nations</i>	Is 43: 1-24 Matins on Ember Friday in Advent Isaiah 11:1-5, Luke 1:39-47	Rev 9:13-10:11
23 Saturday 7:00 AM <i>O Emmanuel</i>	Is 43:25—44:20 Matins on Ember Saturday in Advent 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Luke 3:1-6	Rev 11:1—19
24 Sunday No service 10:15 AM 7:00 PM	Is 44:21—45:13, 20-25; Daniel 10:1-12:13, Isaiah 48:1-22 Advent Four Deuteron. 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28 Vigil of the Nativity – Divine Service Isa 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25 Christ’s Mass Eve Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 NOTE: There is no service at 11 PM!	Rev 12: 1—17

Family: “If Adam had not fallen, the love of bride and groom would have been the loveliest thing. Now this love is not pure either, for admittedly a married partner desires to have the other, yet each seeks to satisfy his desire with the other, and it is this desire which corrupts this kind of love.

Week leading to the Baptism of Our Lord: January 1-7, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 45 (LW, p. 327)

Jan 7 - Psalm 84 (LW, p.335)

Hymn - #38 "Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest"

Daily Readings –

1 Monday No service	Isaiah 61:1-11 The Circumcision of Our Lord Gen 17:1-4, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 2:21	Luke 1:57-80
2 Tuesday	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
3 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Isaiah 63:1-14 Catechesis on Matthew 3:13-17	Luke 2:21-40
4 Thursday	Isaiah 63:15-65:2	Luke 2:41-52
5 Friday	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
6 Saturday 7:00 PM	Isaiah 66:1-20 Church undecorating, 6 PM – 6:50 PM The Epiphany of Our Lord – Divine Service Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 <i>(with burning of Christmas Tree following service)</i>	Luke 3:21-38
7 Sunday 8:00 AM 10:15 AM	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28 <i>Optional Habakkuk 1:1-3:19</i> First Sunday after the Epiphany 1 Kings 8:6-13, Romans 12:1-5, Luke 2:41-52 The Baptism of Our Lord Joshua 3:1-3,7-8,13-17; 1Cor 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17	Romans 1:1-17

Family: My advice is that parents persuade their children not to be ashamed to ask their parents to find a marriage partner for them. Parents should make it clear from the start that they want to advise their children so that they in their turn may remain chaste and persevere in expectation of marriage. In return, children should not become engaged without the knowledge of their parents. You are not ashamed, are you, to ask your parents for a coat or a house? Why be foolish then, and not ask for what is far greater, a partner in marriage? Samson did it. He entered a city and saw a young maiden who pleased him. Thereupon he immediately goes back home and says to his father and mother, “I have seen a young maiden whom I love. Dear parents, get me this girl for a wife” [Judg. 14:1–2]” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.11-12).

marriage, it is mortal sin. In a parallel way the holy manhood of God covers the shame of the wicked lust of the flesh. Therefore, a married man should have regard for such a sacrament*, honor it as sacred, and behave properly in marital obligations, so that those things which originate in the lust of the flesh do not occur [among us] as they do in the world of brute beasts” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.10).

* *Written in 1519, Luther uses the word “sacrament” in a wide sense to mean an estate instituted by God, not that marriage gives forgiveness.*

Catechism - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Third Question

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” [Titus 3:5–8]

Collect for Christmas One

Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Your good pleasure, that in the name of Your beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

Collect for the Eve of the Name of Jesus (December 31)

O Lord God, heavenly Father, who sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior and so gave Him the name of Jesus, mercifully grant that we who worship His name on earth may joyfully behold Him in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Circumcision of Our Lord (January 1)

O Lord God, who for our sakes made Your blessed Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to endure the circumcision of the flesh, grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit, that our hearts may be pure from all sinful desires and lusts; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Therefore, the married state is now no longer pure and free from sin. The temptation of the flesh has become so strong and consuming that marriage may be likened to a hospital for incurables which prevents inmates from falling into graver sin. Before Adam fell it was a simple matter to remain virgin and chaste, but now it is hardly possible, and without special grace from God, quite impossible. For this very reason neither Christ nor the apostles sought to make chastity a matter of obligation. It is true that Christ counseled chastity, and he left it up to each one to test himself, so that if he could not be continent he was free to marry, but if by the grace of God he could be continent, then chastity is better” (Luther’s Works, vol. 44, p.9).

Catechism - The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Second Question

What benefits does Baptism give? 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.

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.”

[Mark 16:16]



HERR LUTHERUS IN EISLEBEN ZUM TISCHGESCHIR
GEBRAUCHT“ eingraviert.
GEBRAUCHT“ eingraviert
In 1694 an admirer of the Reformer had this wooden mug decorated with a silver mounting. The following imprint can be found on the lid: „Word of God: Luther’s Teaching Will Not Perish Now and Nevermore“. Around the rim of the foot the following statement was engraved: „This Mug Was Used by the Blessed Mr. Luther for Drinking in Eisleben.“

Collect for Vigil of the Nativity (Dec 24)

O God, who makest us rejoice in the yearly expectation of the feast of our redemption: grant that we who joyfully receive the only begotten Son as a Redeemer, may behold, without fear, the same Lord Jesus Christ coming as our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

Collect for Christ's Mass Eve (Dec 24)

Grant, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, that we who groan under the old captivity of sin, may be freed therefrom by the new birth of thine Only-Begotten Son; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

Collect for Christ's Mass Midnight (Dec 24/25)

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we implore You, that as we have known on earth the wonders of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

Collect for Christ's Mass Dawn (Dec 25)

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we, upon whom is poured the new light of Thy Word made flesh, may show forth in our actions that which by faith shineth in our minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

Collect for Christ's Mass Day (Dec 25)

Grant, we implore You, heavenly Father, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free, who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of our sin; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Week leading to Christmas One: December 25-31, 2017

Psalm - Psalm 111 (LW, p.344-345)

Hymn - #38 "Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest"

Daily Readings –

25 Monday	Isaiah 49:1-18	Mathew 1:1-17
8:00 AM	Christmas Matins Micah 5:2-5a, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20	
10:15 AM	Christ's Mass Day Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-18	
26 Tuesday	Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8	Matthew 1:18-25
No service	St Stephen, First Martyr 2 Chron. 24:17-22, Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60, Matt 23:34-39	
27 Wednesday	Isaiah 51:17-52:12	Matthew 2:1-12
10:30 AM	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Hosea 14:1-9, 1John 1:1-10, John 21:19b-24	
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 2:1-12	
28 Thursday	Isaiah 52:13-54:10	Matthew 2:13-23
10:30 AM	Holy Innocents Jer. 31:15-17, Rev 14:1-5, Matthew 2:13-18	
29 Friday	Isaiah 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
30 Saturday	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38
31 Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
10:15 AM	Sunday after Christ's Mass Isaiah 11:1-5; Gal 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40	
7:00PM	Eve of the Name of Jesus Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 8:31-39, Matthew 1:18-21	

Family: "It {Marriage} is an outward and spiritual sign of the greatest, holiest, worthiest, and noblest thing that has ever existed or ever will exist: the union of the divine and human natures in Christ. The holy apostle Paul says that as man and wife united in the estate of matrimony are two in one flesh, so God and man are united in the one person Christ, and so Christ and Christendom are one body. It is indeed a wonderful sacrament*, as Paul says [Eph. 5:32], that the estate of marriage truly signifies such a great reality. Is it not a wonderful thing that God is man and that he gives himself to man and will be his, just as the husband gives himself to his wife and is hers? But if God is ours, then everything is ours.

Consider this matter with the respect it deserves. Because the union of man and woman signifies such a great mystery, the estate of marriage has to have this special significance. This means that the wicked lust of the flesh, which nobody is without, is a conjugal obligation and is not reprehensible when expressed within marriage, but in all other cases outside the bond of