

Our Family Daily Prayers

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

2018-2019



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Our Family Daily Prayers – 2018/2019

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

Week leading to Advent One: November 26-December 2, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 24 (LW, p.321)

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

(LW 382 does not have st. 4 & 6)

Daily Readings –

26 Monday	Dan 6:1-28 <i>Optional: Dan 9:1-27</i>	Rev 22:1-27
27 Tuesday	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
28 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Isaiah 2:1-22 Catechesis on Matthew 21:1-9	1 Pet 1:13-25
29 Thursday	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
30 Friday 7:00 PM	Isaiah 6:1-7:9 Vespers on St. Andrew, Apostle Deut 30:11-14, Romans 10:8-18, Matt 4:18-22	1 Peter 2:13-25
1 Saturday	Isaiah 7:10—8:8	1 Pet 3:1-22
2 Sunday 10:15 AM	Is 8:9—9:7 Advent One Jeremiah 23:5-8, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 21:1-9	1 Pet 4:1-19

#1- Educate Your Children: "...So, too, the Fourth Commandment must be stressed when instructing children and the common people in order that they may be encouraged to be orderly, faithful, obedient, and peaceful. Always adduce many examples from the Scriptures to show how God punished and blessed.

¹⁹ You should also take pains to urge governing authorities and parents to rule wisely and **educate their children**. They must be shown that they are obliged to do so, and that they are guilty of damnable sin if they do not do so, for by such neglect they undermine and lay waste both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world and are the worst enemies of God and man. ²⁰ Make very plain to them the shocking evils they introduce when they refuse their aid in the training of children **to become pastors, preachers, notaries, etc.,** and tell them that God will inflict awful punishments on them for these sins. It is necessary to preach about such things. The extent to which parents and governing authorities sin in this

unexpected good fortune, however trivial, he may say, 'God be praised and thanked!' 'This God has bestowed upon me!' etc. **Children used to be trained** to fast and pray to St. Nicholas and other saints, but the other practices would be more pleasing and acceptable to God than any monastic life and Carthusian holiness. (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 374-375).

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.**

Building a House

Explaining the Gospel works the same way. We first start with the foundational teaching that God is Creator, and that sin and death entered the world, as recorded in Genesis. That the foundational knowledge needed to understand the next part—the 'walls'—that God sent His Son to die on the Cross and be raised from the dead, because death is the penalty for sin. This is the power of the gospel, and why Christ can offer us the free gift of salvation. Then we put on the 'roof.' One day there's going to be a new heaven and a new earth. So there we have the gospel, beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation. It's really like building a house from the foundation to the roof" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.40-41).

Week leading to Transfiguration: February 4-10, 2019

Psalm - Psalm 99 (not in LW)

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

4 Monday	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
5 Tuesday	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
6 Wednesday	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 17:1-9	
7 Thursday	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
8 Friday	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
9 Saturday	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
10 Sunday	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22-4:6
10:15 AM	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Peter 1:16-23, Matthew.17:1-9	

#16- Train them to Commend Themselves To God Each Day

⁶⁹ Therefore I advise and urge, as I have before, that by means of warning and threat, restraint and punishment, **children be trained in due time to shun falsehood and especially to avoid calling upon God’s name in its support.** ...⁷⁰ On the other hand, **children should be constantly urged and encouraged** to honor God’s name and keep it constantly upon their lips in all circumstances and experiences, for true honor to God’s name consists of looking to it for all consolation and therefore calling upon it. Thus, as we have heard above, the heart by faith first gives God the honor due him and then the lips do so by confession....

⁷³ For this purpose it also helps to form the habit of commending ourselves each day to God — our soul and body, wife, children, servants, and all that we have — for his protection against every conceivable need. Thus has originated and continued among us the custom of saying grace and returning thanks at meals and saying other prayers for both morning and evening. ⁷⁴ From the same source came the custom of children who cross themselves when they see or hear anything monstrous or fearful and exclaim, ‘Lord God, save us!’ ‘Help, dear Lord Christ!’ etc. Thus, too, if anyone meets with

The Creation Museum (Boone County, Kentucky)

This past summer our congregation took a trip to visit the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. This year’s bulletin pictures will be taken from those two museums.

“At the Creation Museum, we explain the two different starting points, and by doing so, put each visitor on the right road. We start with the foundation of God’s Word, beginning in Genesis. Then we walk you through the Bible from the beginning to the end. This enable us to explain the gospel from the foundation up” (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.101).

respect is beyond telling. The devil also has a horrible purpose in mind” (Small Catechism -Tappert, p. 340).

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.

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.**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

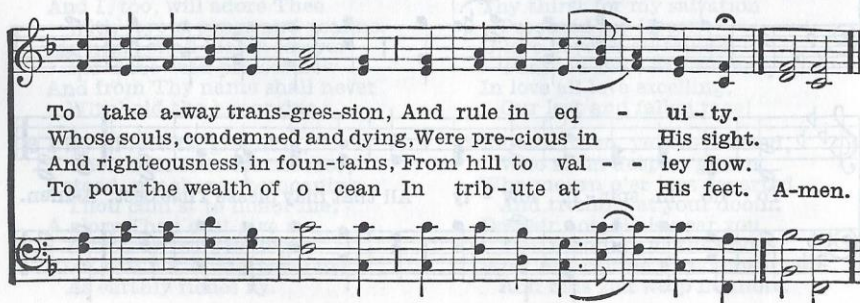
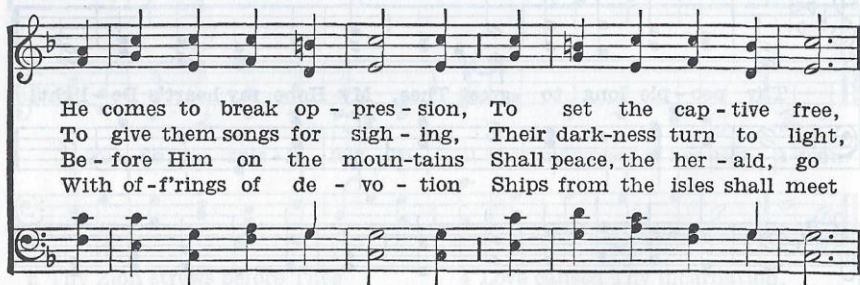
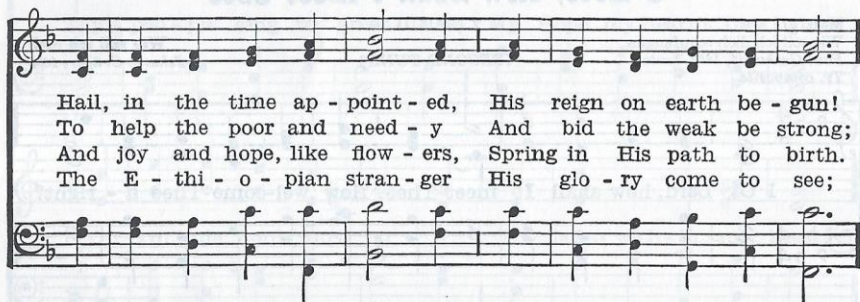
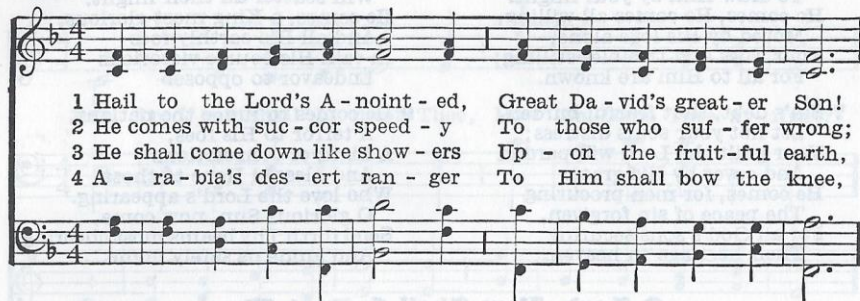
Ps. 72

James Montgomery, 1821

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

Freut euch, ihr lieben

Leonhart Schröter, 1587



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 Four

Almighty God, who knows us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel Only?

In this current moral climate, we can never assume that people possess a foundational knowledge concerning creation, sin, and death...

But do the generations we are preaching to today really understand what sin is, why there is death in the world, and who Jesus is? I don't think so. It's like being told by a doctor that you need an operation, but he has yet to reveal what's wrong with you or why you need it!" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.42).

Many Christians are guilty of only preaching part of the gospel, specifically the power and hope of the gospel. But when you preach the power and hope of the gospel, you're assuming the foundation has already been laid. This is a faulty assumption, especially in our post-Christian, godless culture" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.41-42).

Days leading to Epiphany Four: January 28-February 3, 2019

Psalm - Psalm 121(LW, p. 357)

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

28 Monday	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
29 Tuesday	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18
30 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Timothy 2:1-26
	Catechesis on Matthew 8:23-27	
31 Thursday	Zechariah 10:1-11:3	2 Timothy 3:1-18
1 Friday	Zechariah 11:4-17	2 Timothy 4:1-18
2 Saturday No service	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
	The Presentation of Our Lord Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-32	
3 Sunday 10:15 AM	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
	The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Jonah 1:1-17, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 8:23-27	

#15- Bring Up Your Children to Be of Service to God and Man

¹⁷⁴ Therefore let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God, and if they are gifted to give them opportunity to learn and study **so that they may be of service wherever they are needed.**

¹⁷⁵ If this were done, God would richly bless us and give us grace so that men might be trained who would be a benefit to the nation and the people. We would also have soundly instructed citizens, virtuous and home-loving wives who would faithfully bring up their children and servants to be godly. ¹⁷⁶ Think what deadly harm you do when you are negligent in this respect and fail to bring up your children to usefulness and piety. You bring upon yourself sin and wrath, thus earning hell by the way you have reared your own children, no matter how devout and holy you may be in other respects. ¹⁷⁷ Because this commandment is disregarded, God terribly punishes the world; hence there is no longer any civil order, peace, or respect for authority. We all complain about this state of things, but we do not see that it is our own fault. Because of the way we train them, we have unruly and disobedient subjects. (Large Catechism - Tappert, p. 388).

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

5 Kings shall bow down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all peoples sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

6 O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever —
That name to us is Love.



The outside of the Creation Museum has been landscaped as if it were the Garden of Eden. The idea is to try and picture what it would have been like to experience a world not affected by sin.

The Present Situation

“Today, 90-95% of kids from church homes attend public schools, where they are taught that evolution (biological, geological, astronomical, anthropological) is fact and not the unsupportable belief that it is. In these schools, the Bible has been ignored and ridiculed. Scripture’s God is mocked, taught as myth, or even relegated to a banned topic. These schools have essentially replaced Christianity with their religion of secularism, as students are taught that life and the universe are explained by natural processes, apart from the supernatural intervention of a Creator. Students are indoctrinated with what is called ‘scientific evidence’ that supposedly disproves the Bible’s account of origins. Sadly, most Christian parents and Church leaders haven’t taught these students how to defend the Christian faith against such secular attacks. Most churches and Christian homes have not equipped young people with answers to the skeptical questions, and statements they hear concerning the Bible. The result of this is that many of them begin privately doubting God’s Word by middle school age, eventually walking away from the Christian church” (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.35-36).

Week leading to Advent Two: December 3-9, 2018

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

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Daily Readings –

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

#2- Parents, Keep Your Children Faithfully Learning the

Catechism: “This sermon has been undertaken for the instruction of children and uneducated people. Hence from ancient times it has been called in Greek, a ‘catechism’” — that is, instruction for children.² Its contents represent the minimum of knowledge required of a Christian. Whoever does not possess it should not be reckoned among Christians nor admitted to a sacrament,² just as a craftsman who does not know the rules and practices of his craft is rejected and considered incompetent.³ For this reason young people should be thoroughly instructed in the various parts of the Catechism or children’s sermons and diligently drilled in their practice.

⁴ Therefore, **it is the duty of every head of a household to examine his children and servants at least once a week and ascertain what they have learned of it, and if they do not know it, to keep them faithfully at it.**⁵ I well remember the time when there were old people who were so ignorant that they knew nothing of these things — indeed, even now we find them daily — yet they come to Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar and exercise all the rights of Christians, although those who come to the sacrament ought to know more and have a fuller understanding of all Christian doctrine than children and beginners at school.⁶ As for the common people, however, we should be satisfied if they learned the three parts which have been heritage of Christendom from ancient times,

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.

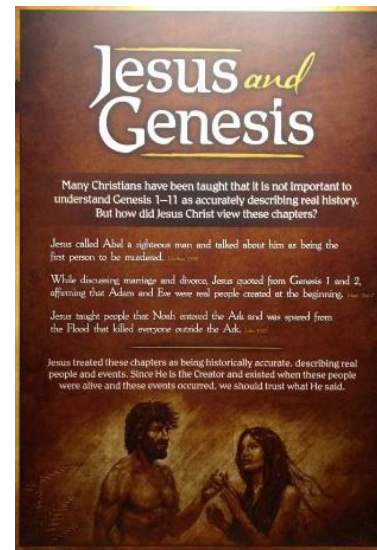
Where is this written?

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 Epiphany Three

Almighty and everlasting God,
mercifully look upon our
infirmities and in all our dangers
and necessities stretch forth the
right hand of Your majesty to
help and defend us; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with
the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Law and Gospel

We have generations who don’t understand the Bible’s original plot—the beginning. Therefore, they don’t fully understand the subsequent message of Jesus dying on the Cross and being raised from the dead. They also don’t understand why they need to believe in Christ in order to be saved.

When I ask people in the Church, ‘What is the gospel?’ I hear people say, ‘Well, it’s the good news: Jesus died on the Cross and was raised from the dead.’ And while this is true, you can’t really understand the good news of the gospel unless you first understand the bad news found in Genesis. Many in the Church say we need to go out and ‘get people saved.’ But consider this—most people don’t even yet know they’re lost. So, why would they believe they need to be saved? Saved from what? Saved by whom? Saved for what purpose? You see, unless people realize their need for a Savior, telling them that Jesus ‘loves them’ means very little”
(*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.38-39).

Days leading to Epiphany Three: January 21-27, 2019

Psalm – Psalm 121 (LW, p. 357)

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

21 Monday	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21
22 Tuesday	Joel 2:1-17	Romans 11:1-24
23 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Joel 2:18-32	Romans 11:25-12:13
	Catechesis on Matthew 8:1-13	
24 Thursday 10:30 AM	Joel 3:1-21	Romans 12:14-13:14
	St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor Ezekiel 34:11-16, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 21:15-17	
25 Friday 10:30 AM	Zechariah 1:1-21	Romans 14:1-23
	The Conversion of St. Paul Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 9:1-22, Mt 19:27-30	
26 Saturday 7:00 PM	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Romans 15:1-13
	St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor Acts 20:17-35, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 24:42-47	
27 Sunday 10:15 AM	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany 2 Kings 5:1-15a, Romans 1:8-17, Matthew 8:1-13	

#14-Spare No Effort, Time or Expense in Educating Your

Children: ¹⁷⁰ The trouble is that no one perceives or heeds this.

Everybody acts as if God gave us children for our pleasure and amusement, gave us servants merely to put them to work like cows or asses, and gave us subjects to treat them as we please, as if it were no concern of ours what they learn or how they live. ¹⁷¹ No one is willing to see that this is the command of the divine Majesty, who will solemnly call us to account and punish us for its neglect, nor is it recognized how very necessary it is to devote serious attention to the young. ¹⁷² If we want qualified and capable men for both civil and spiritual leadership, **we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and mankind.**

We must not think only of amassing money and property for them.

¹⁷³ God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed he does daily. But he has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to his will; otherwise God would have no need of father and mother. (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 388).

though they were rarely taught and treated correctly, so that all who wish to be Christians in fact as well as in name, both young and old, may be well-trained in them and familiar with them. (Shorter Preface of Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 362).

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 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.**

Ambivalence

“At Answers in Genesis, the Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter, we specialize in teaching apologetics by equipping people for how to answer today’s skeptical questions that cause many to doubt the Bible. Sadly, most of our churches, pastors, Sunday School teachers, seminary professors, Bible college professors, and Christian college professors are instructing coming generations that they don’t need to believe in a literal Genesis. Instead, they’re propagating the lie that a Christian can believe in evolution and its millions of years. By and large, most of these young people have been told that it doesn’t really matter how they view Genesis, and that it’s not important anyway. But it is. How you view Genesis dictates how you see and interpret the rest of the Bible. If Genesis cannot be trusted to be an accurate account of mankind’s beginnings and the origin of sin and God’s provision of salvation, then how can we trust it or any other books of the Bible when they make truth claims?”
(*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.34-35).

Week leading to Advent Three: December 10-16, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 85 (not in LW)

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Daily Readings –

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

#3- Teach Children The Habit of Daily Reciting the Catechism

¹⁵ These {*Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer*} are the most necessary arts of Christian instruction. We should learn to repeat them word for word. ¹⁶ Our children should be taught the habit of reciting them daily when they rise in the morning, when they go to their meals, and they go to bed at night; until they repeat them they should not be given anything to eat or drink. ¹⁷ **Every father has the same duty to his household; he should dismiss man-servants and maid-servants if they do not know these things and are unwilling to learn them.** ¹⁸ Under no circumstances should a person be tolerated if he is so rude and unruly that he refuses to learn these three parts in which everything contained in Scripture is comprehended in short, plain, and simple terms, ¹⁹ for the dear fathers or apostles, whoever they were, have thus summed up the doctrine, life, wisdom, and learning which constitute the Christian's conversation, conduct and concern.

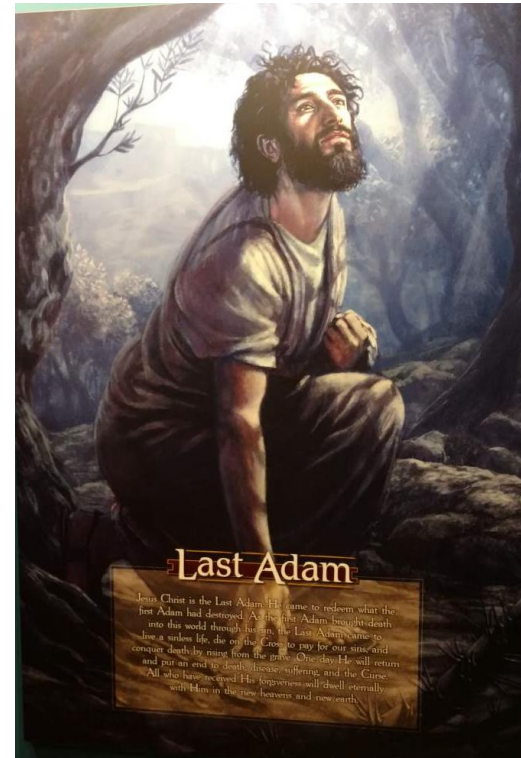
²⁰ When these three parts are understood, we ought also to know what to say about the sacraments which Christ himself instituted. Baptism and the holy Body and Blood of Christ, according to the texts of Matthew and Mark at the end of their Gospels where they describe how Christ said farewell to his disciples and sent them forth. (Shorter Preface of Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 363-364).

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 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.**



"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (1 Cor 15:45)

Apologetics

I believe (and the research in various ways confirmed) one of the biggest reasons so many Millennials are leaving the Church, and why the ones who remain are confused, is that we haven't show them how to defend their faith. We haven't taught them answers to skeptical questions that cause them to doubt and disbelieve the Scriptures. We haven't taught them apologetics. We've given them answers to some of the 'what?' but not nearly enough of the 'why?'" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.33).

Days leading to Epiphany Two: January 14-20, 2019

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

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

14 Monday	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14	Romans 5:1-21
15 Tuesday	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23
16 Wednesday	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Romans 7:1-20
6:30 PM	Catechesis on John 2:1-11	
17 Thursday	Ezekiel 39:1-10,17-29	Romans 7:21-8:17
18 Friday	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 Saturday	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29	Romans 9:1-18
20 Sunday	Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33
10:15 AM	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Exodus 33:12-23, Ephesians 5:22-33, John 2:1-11	

#13- The Office of Parent, both Material and Spiritual Support of Children: ¹⁶⁷ In addition, it would be well to preach **to parents on the nature of their office**, how they should treat those committed to their authority. Although the duty of superiors is not explicitly stated in the Ten Commandments, it is frequently dealt with in many other passages of Scripture, and God intends it to be included in this commandment in which he speaks of father and mother. ¹⁶⁸ God does not want to have knaves or tyrants in this office and responsibility; nor does he assign them this honor (that is, power and authority to govern) merely to receive homage. **Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office, not only to provide for the material support of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but especially to bring them up to the praise and honor of God.** ¹⁶⁹ Therefore do not imagine that the parental office is a matter of your pleasure and whim. It is a strict commandment and injunction of God, who holds you accountable for it. (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 388).

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,

Catechism - Lord’s Prayer, The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil. *What does this mean?*

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.

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 visitor to the Creation Museum walks through the “Garden of Eden” in order to get to the museum entrance, just as the account of Creation prepares us for the message of the Cross.

The Statistics

“In research conducted in 2015, we found that 22% of people in their sixties who used to go to church have stopped attending. But with the Millennial generation, that number was over half (53%). Answers in Genesis also contracted with America’s Research Group to conduct focused research on these American Millennials who have now left the Church. Statistics revealed that two-thirds of young people are leaving the Church in America by the time they reach college age, and very few are returning” (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.27-28).

“There’s no doubt there is a widening chasm between the older generation and the Millennials in American. The older generation, even those aren’t Christian, have more a Christianized worldview because of the significant past influence of Christianity. Today’s younger generations do not have such a {*Christian*} worldview because their thinking has been secularized through education and culture” (p.18-19).

Week leading to Advent Four: December 17-23, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 19 (LW, p.318-319)

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

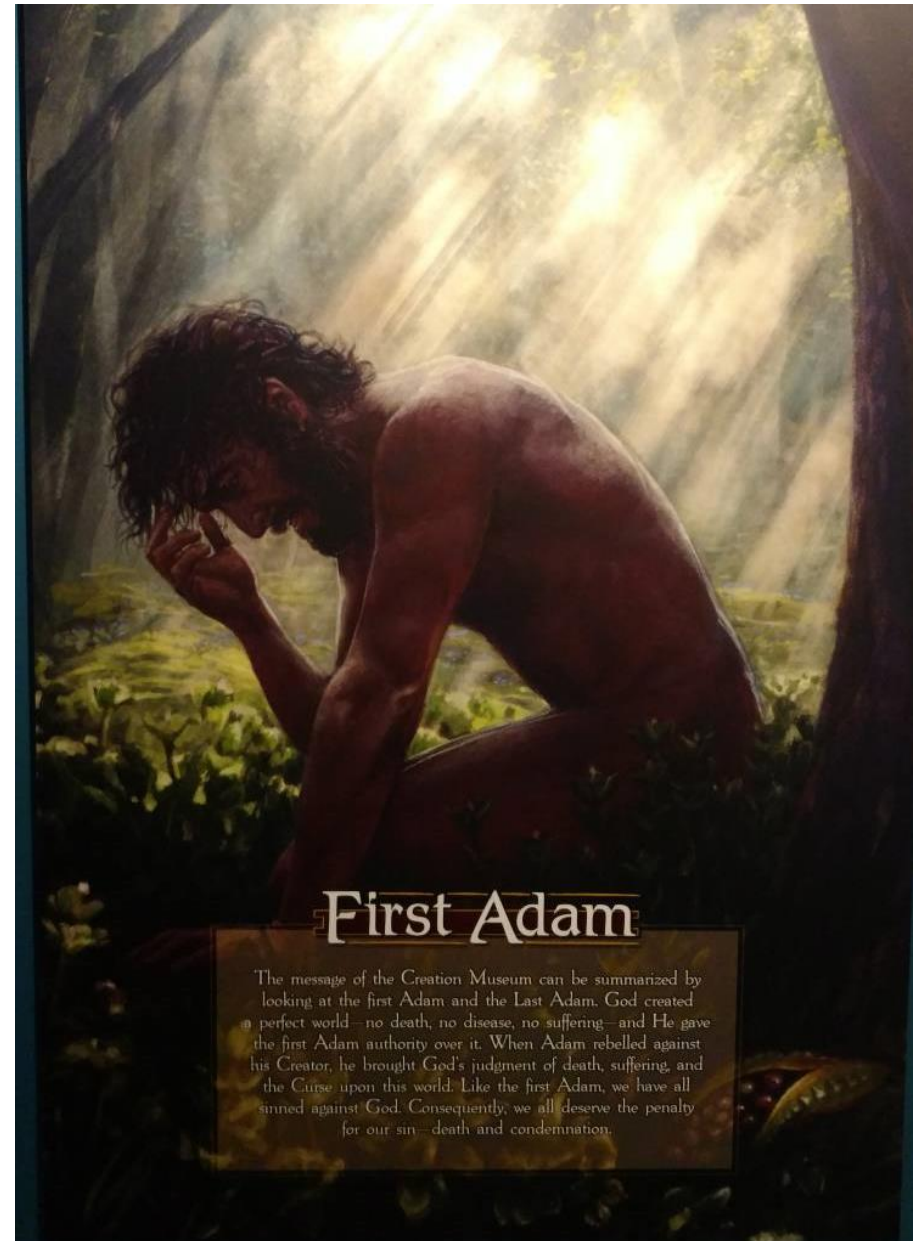
Daily Readings –

17 Monday <i>O Wisdom</i>	Is 33:1—24	Rev 5:1—14
18 Tuesday <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 Wednesday 7:00 AM 6:30 PM <i>O Root of Jesse</i>	Is 40:1—17 Matins on Ember Wednesday in Advent Isaiah 2:2-5, Isaiah 7:10-15, Luke 1:26-38 Catechesis on John 1:19-28	Rev 7:1—17
20 Thursday <i>O Key of David</i>	Is 40:18—41:10	Rev 8:1—13
21 Friday 7:00 AM 10:30 AM <i>O Dayspring</i>	Is 42:1—25 Matins on Ember Friday in Advent Isaiah 11:1-5, Luke 1:39-47 St. Thomas, Apostle Habakkuk 2:1-4, Ephesians 1:3-6, John 19:24-31	Rev 9:1—12
22 Saturday 7:00 PM <i>O King of Nations</i>	Is 43: 1-24 Vespers on Ember Saturday in Advent 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Luke 3:1-6	Rev 9:13-10:11
23 Sunday 10:15 AM <i>O Emmanuel</i>	Is 43:25—44:20 Advent Four Deuteron. 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28	Rev 11:1—19

#4- Christianity To Penetrate Deeply Into the Mind and Fixed in Memory:

“²⁴ Thus we have, in all, five parts {*Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism and Lord's Supper*} covering the whole of Christian doctrine, which **we should constantly teach and require young people to recite word for word.** Do not assume that they will learn and retain this teaching from sermons alone. ²⁵ When these parts have been well learned, you may assign them also some Psalms and some hymns, based on these subjects, to supplement and confirm their knowledge. **Thus our youth will be led into the Scriptures so they make progress daily.**

²⁶ However, it is not enough for them simply to learn and repeat these parts verbatim. The young people should also attend preaching, especially at the time designated for the Catechism, so that they may



“The first man Adam was made a living soul;
the last Adam was made a quickening spirit” (1
Cor 15:45)

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]

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.**

Secular Culture

“I realized that we are in a culture that has indeed, changed. They no longer have the foundational information about God, His Word, and their need for salvation. Our culture, and even many within the Church, have such a minute understanding of Scripture, particularly the early pages of Genesis, that they have little to no foundation to understand the message of Jesus. ...many in our culture simply don't have any foundation to comprehend the message of Christ, ever since the Bible and Christianity have been kicked out of schools and replaced with the godless religion of secular humanism” (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.13-14).

hear it explained and may learn the meaning of every part. Then they will also be able to repeat what they have heard and give a good, correct answer when they are questioned, and thus the preaching will not be without benefit and fruit.²⁷ The reason we take such care to preach on the Catechism frequently is to impress it upon our youth, not in a lofty and learned manner but briefly and very simply, so that it **may penetrate deeply into their minds** and remain fixed in their memories.²⁸ Now we shall take up the above-mentioned parts one by one and in the plainest possible manner say about them as much as is necessary” (Shorter Preface of Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 364-5).

Catechism - Lord's Prayer, 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 Four (*Rorate Coeli*)

Stir up your power, O Lord, we implore You, and come among us, that by Your grace whatever is hindered by our sins may yet be speedily accomplished through Your mercy and satisfaction; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

“But here's a major problem. As soon as one believes in millions of years, then you have allowed death, bloodshed, and disease (as exhibited in the fossil record) to exist *before* Adam sinned... In the fossil record, there are also examples of brain tumors, cancer and arthritis in various skeletons. If these things existed before Adam sinned, then there's an insurmountable problem because **after God made Adam and Eve, He said everything was 'very good'** (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.72-73).

Days leading to Christmas: December 24-25, 2018

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

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

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Daily Readings –

24 Monday	Is 44:21—45:13, 20-25; Daniel 10:1-12:13, Isaiah 48:1-22	Rev 12: 1—17
9:00 AM	Vigil of the Nativity – Divine Service Isa 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25	
25 Tuesday	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	
9:00 AM	Christ's Mass Day Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-18	
	Sunday after Christ's Mass Isaiah 11:1-5; Gal 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40	

Christmas Eve

#5-The Sign For Strengthening Those Who Believe

Isaiah 7:14. *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign,* But since he{ Ahaz } now resists the Word of God and refuses a sign, how can his faith be strengthened? Therefore the prophet speaks of a sign to come, against which they will dash, just as the sign of Jonah was given to the Jews (cf. Matt. 12:39), and those who refuse to believe will perish. Nevertheless, it is a sign of lifting up and building up and strengthening for those who believe (Matt. 12:39; 16:4). And this is the summary of this chapter until the end, because he says that this prediction is already in the process of fulfillment in these unbelievers. אִלְמָה, { *Pronounced: almah* } a young woman capable of giving birth, for an old woman can be a virgin too, but she is not called אִלְמָה.

She shalt conceive. In Hebrew it is “has conceived,” and that is the indication of a miracle; it is as if the prophet were already seeing it. Again, since he says that it is God’s sign, it is necessary that that conception and birth be in a different manner than is commonly and naturally the case, for it would not be a sign if one Who today is a virgin would become pregnant after a half year. Therefore she has to be both a virgin and with child. Matthew 1:21 f. clearly explains this.

set forth to the prophet, namely, Word and sign. The Lord often acts this way. The lips are cleansed by fire. This is the sign. The Word is: ‘Your guilt be taken away.’ Here our sacraments are established. Yet these are disdained and shamefully handled by some who say: Nothing external benefits the soul.⁴ But let them criticize as much as they want. What Isaiah experiences here is not a fairy tale, but as there are fearful and serious voices, so there is also absolution, which then is granted through the addition of the sign to the Word. **Now, what that sign could do, this our Baptism can also do**” (Luther’s Works, vol. 16, p.72).

First Sunday after Epiphany

#12- Parents Employ Others To Help Teach Their Children

¹⁴¹ In connection with this commandment there is more to be said about the various kinds of obedience due to our superiors, persons whose duty it is to command and to govern. **Out of the authority of parents all other authority is derived and developed. Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach him; if he is too weak, he enlists the help of his friends and neighbors; if he passes away, he confers and delegates his authority and responsibility to others appointed for the purpose.**¹⁴² Likewise he must have domestics (man-servants and maid-servants) under him to manage his household. Thus all who are called masters stand in the place of parents and derive from them their power and authority to govern. In the Scriptures they are all called fathers because in their responsibility they act in the capacity of fathers and ought to have fatherly hearts toward their people. So from ancient times the Romans and other peoples called the masters and mistresses of the household *patres et matres familias* (that is, house-fathers and house-mothers). Again, their princes and overlords were called *patres patriae*⁴ (that is, fathers of the country) to the great shame of us would-be Christians who do not speak of our rulers in the same way, or at least do not treat and honor them as such.” (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 383).

Week leading to the Baptism of Our Lord: January 7-13, 2019

Psalm - Psalm 45 (LW, p. 327)

Jan 13 - Psalm 84 (LW, p.335)

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

7 Monday	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28 <i>Optional Habakkuk 1:1-3:19</i>	Romans 1:1-17
8 Tuesday	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	Romans 1:18-32
9 Wednesday	Ezekiel 3:12-28 <i>Optional Ezekiel 4:1-11:25</i>	Romans 2:1-16
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 3:13-17	
10 Thursday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 <i>Optional Ezekiel 19:1-24:27</i>	Romans 2:17-29
11 Friday	Ezekiel 33:1-20	Romans 3:1-18
12 Saturday	Ezekiel 34:1-24	Romans 3:19-31
13 Sunday	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Romans 4:1-25
8:00 AM	First Sunday after the Epiphany 1 Kings 8:6-13, Romans 12:1-5, Luke 2:41-52	
10:15 AM	The Baptism of Our Lord Joshua 3:1-3,7-8,13-17; 1Cor 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17	

Baptism of Our Lord (Saturday)

#11 Isaiah 6:5 *For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.* For that reason, he says, ‘I am lost.’ But it turned out for the salvation of the prophet that he was thus thrust down to hell, so that he might be led away and lead others away from that uncleanness of the Law to the purity of Christ, so that He alone might reign. Isaiah 6:6. *Then flew one to me.* Here now a resurrection from the dead takes place. We see that sinners who acknowledge their sins are not abandoned. The prophet cries out that he is lost, that he is oppressed with the consciousness of a defiled mouth, and that he has felt sin and death. And on that account he obtained forgiveness. ‘If we confess our sins, etc.’ says 1 John 1:9; and 1 John 2:1 says: ‘If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father’; so also 1 John 5:18. God hates the sin of hardening and its being defended. Let them be cleansed and let them confess their uncleanness, especially that of the mouth. For where lips and doctrine are unclean, there unclean works follow. Therefore the seraph approaches to set the prophet free from his sin. But he uses means. So, then, two things are

Immanuel. This describes what kind of person it will be. This is not a proper name. He is indeed the Son of a virgin, and yet He is “God with us,” therefore God and man.

15. *He shall eat curds and honey.* This is a description of His childhood and humanity. As He is said to be born as a true human being, so He will be reared in a true human fashion” (Luther’s Works, vol. 16, p.84).

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**

Christmas Dawn Matins

#6-The Light of the Gospel

Isaiah 9:2. *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

Matthew (4:16) cites this text with reference to Christ’s specific sojourn in Capernaum and Galilee not for the purpose of establishing and strengthening faith but only for the purpose of encouragement. The apostles and evangelists are much accustomed to doing this.

People. So then the people of the whole world, Jews as well as Gentiles, were in darkness, that is, in error, unrighteousness, notions, a false understanding of the Law, etc. *Light* is the Gospel, the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is common for Scriptures to repeat and double the same thing, as is done here, for the purpose of emphasis.

3. *Thou hast multiplied the nation, Thou hast not increased its joy.* Here is pictured the fruit and power of this light which is propagated from day to day, not satisfied with the corner where the Jews live but spread abroad among the nations throughout the world, a thing that irks the Jews. In Deut. 32:21 we read: ‘I will provoke them with a foolish nation.’ The Jews, who think that they alone should be God’s people, interpret this passage in a distorted way, as if the Gentiles, however numerous, would not come to enjoy God nor rejoice in Him.³ But this is the true meaning: Many nations are received into the kingdom of

God; this makes the Jews sick, by this they are provoked to anger, envy, zeal, and a spirit of stupor (cf. Rom. 11:8). This is what it means to lessen their joy” (Luther’s Works, vol. 16, p.97).

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**

Christmas Day

#7-Christ is the Servant In His Kingdom

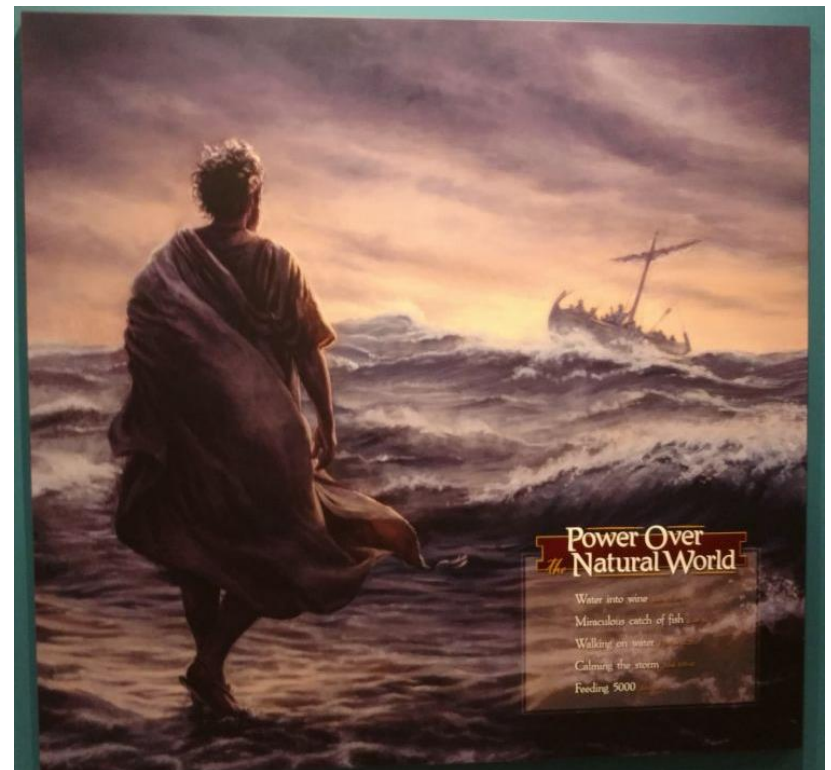
Isaiah 9:6. *For to us a Child is born.* Here you see the prophet speaking about the kingdom of peace, because he boasts about a Child born and a Son given, who will be the Head and King of this kingdom. And therefore it will be a kingdom of peace, not of strife. All these words are strong and intense. Above he spoke of the greatest affliction, of darkness and the shadow of death. Likewise of the Law, of sin, and of death, the most oppressive tyrants. Against them he now places the King born and given to us, who is to set us free from them and implant us into His peaceful and happy reign. He now proceeds to explain what kind of reign that is.

And the government was made. Verbs of the past tense are to be interpreted in the present tense. Instead of “was made” we shall have “is.” Some explain this as meaning that Christ has conquered the world through the cross. Others set this passage over against those above by way of antithesis: On this Child no yoke and rod will be imposed, because He is without sin, but government and freedom will be His.⁵ We explain it in this way: The government of Christ are we, whom He carries on His shoulders. Other kings are carried like rods by their subjects. All kingdoms of the world are carried and are burdens on our neck, and they reduce bodies and possessions to slavery. Therefore in the manner of ruling in the kingdom of the world and in that of Christ there is a difference. In the kingdom of the world the prince or king alone is free, all others are servants. But in Christ’s kingdom Christ alone is a servant, and we are free. Moses

To the Name of Our Salvation

5 Jesus is the name prevailing
Over every name by right;
At this name, in terror quailing,
Powers of hell are put to flight;
God, in mercy never failing,
Saves us by this name of might.

6 Therefore we in love adoring
This most blessed name revere,
Holy Jesus, Thee imploring
So to write it in us here
That hereafter, heavenward soaring,
We may sing with angels there.



To the Name of Our Salvation

Acts 4: 12
Gloriosi Salvatoris
Author unknown, 1496
Tr., John M. Neale, 1851, alt.

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

Sieh, hier bin ich
"Geistreiches Gesangbuch"
Darmstadt, 1698



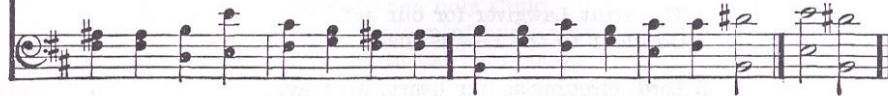
1 To the name of our sal-va-tion Laud and hon-or let us pay,
2 Je-sus is the name we trea-sure, Name be-yond what words can tell;
3 'Tis the name for ad-o-ra-tion; 'Tis the name of vic-to-ry;



Which for man-y a gen-er-a-tion Hid in God's fore-knowl-edge lay;
Name of glad-ness, name of plea-sure, Ear and heart de-light-ing well;
'Tis the name for med-i-ta-tion In this vale of mis-er-y;



But with ho-ly ex-ul-ta-tion We may sing a-loud to-day.
Name of sweetness, passing measure, Sav-ing us from sin and hell.
'Tis the name for ven-er-a-tion By the cit-i-zens on high. A-men.



4 'Tis the name that whoso preacheth
Speaks like music to the ear;
Who in prayer this name beseecheth
Sweetest comfort findeth near;
Who its perfect wisdom reacheth
Heavenly joy possesseth here.

says in Deut. 32:11: 'Like an eagle, etc.,' and it bore them 'on its pinions.' So to the present day it is with Christ, once for all, however, in His cross and death. He commanded His ministers and all His members to bear one another. He Himself is the Cornerstone and the Foundation. Thus in the kingdom of Christ those who serve rule, and those who rule serve" (Luther's Works, vol. 16, p.99).

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.**



There was a small petting zoo outside the museum.



Week leading to Christmas One: December 26-30, 2018

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

Hymn – TLH #59 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Daily Readings –

26 Wednesday <i>No service</i>	Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8	Matthew 1:18-25
	St Stephen, First Martyr 2 Chron. 24:17-22, Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60, Matt 23:34-39	
	No Catechesis	
27 Thursday 10:30 AM	Isaiah 51:17-52:12	Matthew 2:1-12
	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Hosea 14:1-9, 1John 1:1-10, John 21:19b-24	
28 Friday 10:30 AM	Isaiah 52:13-54:10	Matthew 2:13-23
	Holy Innocents Jer. 31:15-17, Rev 14:1-5, Matthew 2:13-18	
29 Saturday	Isaiah 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
30 Sunday 10:15 AM	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38
	Sunday after Christ's Mass Isaiah 11:1-5; Gal 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40	

#8- The Joy of Godly Children Keeping the 4th Commandment

"You should rejoice heartily and thank God that he has chosen and fitted you to perform a task so precious and pleasing to him. {*The task of honoring parents*} Even though it seems very trivial and contemptible, make sure that you regard it as great and precious, not on account of your worthiness but because it has its place within that jewel and holy treasure, the Word and commandment of God.¹¹⁸ O how great a price all the Carthusian monks and nuns would pay if in the exercise of their religion they could bring before God a single work done in accordance with his commandment and could say with a joyful heart in his presence, '**Now I know that this work is well pleasing to Thee!**' What will become of these poor wretched people when, standing before God and the whole world, they shall blush with shame before **a little child that has lived according to this commandment** and confess that with the merits of their whole lives they are not worthy to offer him a cup of water?¹¹⁹ It serves them right for their devilish perversity in trampling God's commandment under foot that they must torture themselves in vain with their self-devised works and meanwhile have only scorn and trouble for their reward.

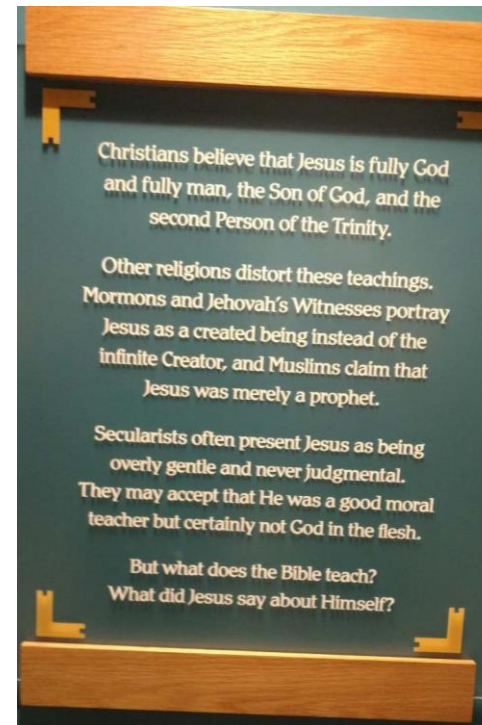


Ideological Civil War

There's even talk that an ideological civil war is being waged in America. And as moral relativism enjoys greater national acceptance, Christians, and their worldview are treated with increasing intolerance.

The elimination of prayer and the Bible from state schools was only the beginning. Now Christians themselves are being targeted for the free exercise of their faith in the public square... Even terminology associated with Christian teaching is being changed or removed. For example, 'Merry Christmas' is changed to 'Happy Holidays.' In short, Christianity's influence is slowly being purged from America's national conscience.

Simultaneously, Christians are not having an impact on culture and those in it, choosing instead to remain content and safe within their own churches and Christian circles" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.17).



they have no sense of modesty or honor; they do nothing until they are driven with blows; and they defame and depreciate one another behind their backs in any way they can. God therefore punishes them so that they sink into all kinds of trouble and misery. ¹²⁴ **Neither can parents, as a rule, do very much; one fool trains another, and as they have lived, so live their children after them.**

¹²⁵ This, I say, should be the first and strongest reason impelling us to keep this commandment. If we had no father and mother, we should wish, on account of the commandments, that God would set up a block or a stone which we might call father and mother. How much more, when he has given us living parents, should we be happy to show them honor and obedience. For we know that it is highly pleasing to the divine Majesty and all the angels, that it vexes all devils, and, besides, that it is the greatest work that we can do, next to the sublime worship of God described in the previous commandments. ¹²⁶ Even almsgiving and all other works for our neighbor are not equal to this. **For God has exalted this estate of parents above all others;** indeed, he has appointed it to be his representative on earth. This will and pleasure of God ought to provide us sufficient reason and incentive to do cheerfully and gladly whatever we can. (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 382).

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]

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.**

¹²⁰ Should not the heart leap and melt with joy when it can go to work and do what is commanded, saying, 'Lo, this is better than the holiness of all the Carthusians, even though they kill themselves with fasting and pray on their knees without ceasing'? **Hence you have a sure text and a divine testimony that God has commanded this;** concerning the other things he has commanded not a word. This is the plight and the miserable blindness of the world that no one believes this; so thoroughly has the devil bewitched us with the false holiness and glamor of our own works. (Large Catechism -Tappert, p. 381).

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]

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**

The Bible Stories

In previous generations, when you said in Sunday School, 'Let's read a Bible story,' most kids anticipated hearing something that happened in history from the Bible. (By the way the word *story* is take from the Latin word *historia*, which commonly meant just that—*history*.)

However, when you say 'Bible *story*' today, most kids (and adults) think 'fiction' or 'fairy tale.' That is because of this 'divide' in generational thinking. Many do not see the Bible as authoritative, trustworthy, infallible, or inerrant, largely, because they have been indoctrinated by secular culture and education. So, they simply dismiss Scripture as a 'fairytale'" (*Gospel Reset* by Ken Ham, p.21-22).

Week leading to the Epiphany of Our Lord: Dec. 31-Jan. 6, 2019

Psalm - Psalm 72(LW, p. 332)

Hymn – TLH #116, “To The Name of Our Salvation”

Daily Readings –

31 Monday 7:00 PM	Isaiah 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
	Eve of the Name of Jesus Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 8:31-39, Matthew 1:18-21	
1 Tuesday <i>No service</i>	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
	The Circumcision of Our Lord Gen 17:1-4, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 2:21	
2 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
	Catechesis on Matthew 2:1-12	
3 Thursday	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
4 Friday 6:00 PM	Isaiah 63:15-65:2	Luke 2:41-52
	Church undecorating, 5 PM Epiphany 1st Vespers (Isaiah 60:1-6) at 6 PM (with burning of Christmas Tree following service)	
5 Saturday	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
6 Sunday 10:15 AM	Isaiah 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
	The Epiphany of Our Lord – Divine Service Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12	

Eve of the Name

#9-The Firmness of the Spiritual Kingdom of the Church

4. *Listen to Me, My people.* He prescribes the method and form whereby the church will be made fruitful, namely, through the law and judgment of God, which cannot, however, be understood by means of the law of Moses, which the Jews possess. Nevertheless, God will cause a law to go forth from Him, that is, the sending forth of the Gospel after the old law has been abolished.

And My justice for a light to the peoples, that is, a new light, a new law, the abolition of the old law and the succession of the new, which is implanted not by human weapons and resources but by faith and righteousness. Salvation, victory, and triumph in faith will follow this spiritual kingdom, to which Moses with his ceremonies will give way.

5. *The coastlands wait for Me.* This is the promise of the coming Paradise proceeding out of the old broken and forsaken church. Look at heaven and earth, which appear to be eternal. Yet if either one should fail, God’s salvation will remain, and the heaven will perish,

however firm it may be. Thus the gospel says (Matt. 24:35): “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

6. *Lift up your eyes to the heavens.* This requires an immeasurable faith, since there is nothing feebler than voice or sound, and yet it must become so great that heaven and earth must be held as nothing. Therefore this righteousness is so fixed and eternal that even heaven and earth will more quickly be dispersed like smoke. The Word of God will continue in its effect when princes and tyrants will be completely blotted out. This requires a faith that must not be despised and that is not feeble” (Luther’s Works, vol. 17, p.198).

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.**

The Epiphany of Our Lord-Sunday

#10- Foolish Parents Train Foolish Children

¹²¹ Therefore, I repeat, I should be very glad if we were to open our eyes and ears and take this to heart so that we may not again be led astray from the pure Word of God to the lying vanities of the devil. Then all would be well; parents would have more happiness, love, kindness, and harmony in their houses, and children would win their parents’ hearts completely. ¹²² On the other hand, when they are obstinate and never do their duty until a rod is laid on their backs, they anger both God and their parents. Thus they deprive themselves of this treasure and joy of conscience and lay up for themselves nothing but misfortune. ¹²³ That is the way things go in the world now, as everyone complains. **But young and old are altogether wayward and unruly;**