

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of *Rorate Cali* & the Nativity of Our Lord
December 21, 2025 through December 27, 2025

Thoughts on the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity—Though He Was Rich, He Became Poor for Us: Every Christian knows the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ because it is proclaimed to us in the Gospel. It is the pure, undeserved, sacrificial love of Jesus that moved Him to become one with our flesh and weakness, and to suffer and die for our sins. We know and believe in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. It is this grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that moved Him to do what he did for us—to become man, to humble Himself, to suffer and to die for the unworthy and the undeserving. Though he was rich—the holy, eternal, omnipotent Son of God who shared in the Father's glory from eternity and through whom the Father made all things—yet for our sakes He became poor, was lowly, despised, suffered unto death bearing our sins as His own. This is love. He set aside His power and glory as the eternal Son of God and became man, humbling Himself to the point of bearing the sin of the whole world in His own body upon the cross and dying for us that we through His poverty might become rich, made partakers of His divine life. To become rich in Christ is to share eternally in the grace of God and to become partakers with Jesus of the immortal and incorruptible life that He won for us in His humiliation, suffering, and death.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray out loud as much as you are able, and as your family size and ages dictate.

Theme of the Week: The Christ Has Come As Proclaimed by John the Baptist

Invocation

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Verse: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory" (John 1:14).

Psalms of the Week: 98

Daily Readings

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	John 1:19 – 30 <i>John the Baptist Bears Witness to the Christ</i>	Isaiah 61 – 63
Monday	Matthew 1:18 – 25 <i>Christ's Birth Foretold to Joseph</i>	Isaiah 64 – 66
Tuesday	2 Samuel 7:1 – 16 <i>David's Son Will Build the House of the Lord</i>	Romans 1 – 3
Wednesday	Christmas Eve: Luke 2:1 – 20	Romans 4 – 6
Thursday	Christmas Day: John 1:1 – 14	Romans 7 – 9
Friday	St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8 – 7:60	Romans 10 – 13

The Catechism – The Apostles’ Creed: The Second Article

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayers

Sunday thru Tuesday: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Wednesday: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Thursday thru Saturday: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

The Church: Our congregation, Pastor Andrew Gerike, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, President Matthew Harrison, The Nebraska District and President Richard Snow, our seminaries, our sister churches, especially in Ghana, Hong Kong, Belgium, & Argentina; *The World:* Our Nation, President, Governor, Mayor, all public servants, and the armed forces; *Our missionaries:* Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran Mission; *Our homebound:* Char Emmanuel, Pat Helmke, Marilyn Pacas, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers:* Courtney Christoffers, Elizabeth Fusselman, Jessica Whirrett; *All others in need:* Dick Chappell, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Larry Ashe, David Christian, the Nuer people of South Sudan, Barb Masilko, Jean Young, Jean Babel, Hayes Gonzalez, Genelle Rohe, Nancy Goesch, Tammie Stewart, Ezra Venteicher, Art Huntley, Bill Christian (father of Anne House, recovering from a fall), thanksgiving for Janet Christian’s remission of cancer

Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer***Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism***

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn of the Month: 621 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Looking forward to the First Sunday after Christmas

Haggai 2:6 – 9 Galatians 4:1 – 7 Luke 2:22 – 40

Hymns: 378, 382, 389, 381, 375, 367, 385, “We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise,” 390