The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Propers Populus Zion (Second Sunday in Advent) December 4, 2022*

*Pray and confess aloud as much from the order of meditation and prayer, as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

Catechesis Notes for the week – Psalm 23 – Why does Psalm 23 have such a hold on us? Why has it been at the center of the prayer life of Christians through the ages? I think it is because in it we see the heart of our Lord most clearly. In it we see his love most truly. When we recite the psalm as our confession, we acknowledge that the story of God and David is the story of Christ and us. We are the sheep. We are his Israel. Behind Psalm 23 is the story of Yhwh, the [faithful Shepherd](https://blog.cph.org/read/devotions-on-the-lord-is-my-shepherd-ill-not-want), who led his people out of the land of death and miraculously sustained them in the desert and brought them to the promised land flowing with milk and honey. This faithful Shepherd chose David the shepherd boy to become the shepherd of his people and to bear his promise. And when the flock seemed forever scattered, this faithful Shepherd promised this through the prophet Ezekiel: “Indeed I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out my sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day” (Ezek 34:11–12). [Saleska, Timothy *Concordia Commentary Psalm 1-50* p 418]

***Invocation*** -In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Apostle’s Creed***

**Verse:** Matthew 5:45b – For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 23**

**Year I – Old Testament Stories: Year 1**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | **Populus Zion – Luke 21:25-36** |
| Monday | Joseph Feeds His Brothers and Sends Them to Their Father – Genesis 42:25-38 |
| Tuesday | Benjamin Returns with His Brothers to Egypt – Genesis 43:1-34 |
| Wednesday | **Advent Midweek – John 15:1-11** |
| Thursday | Joseph’s Cup Is Found in Benjamin’s Sack – Genesis 44:1-17 |
| Friday | Judah Intercedes for Benjamin Before Joseph – Genesis 44:18 – 45:3 |
| Saturday | Joseph Forgives His Brothers – Genesis 45:4-28 |

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| **Catechism: Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer** | **Grades** |
| *The Fourth Petition*  Give us this our daily bread | K+ |
| *What does this mean?*  God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. | 1st+ |
| *What is meant by daily bread?*  Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. | 2nd+ |