The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for First Sunday after Christmas*

*December 31, 2023*

*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 104:16-35 – Luther on Psalm 104 –** “The 104th psalm is a psalm of thanks for all the works that God had accomplished in heaven and on earth, beyond those done for us here on earth. He has surely ordered all things according to a wise place to produce works, fruits, and crops. The psalmist recounts these one after the other; the heavens – full of light and outstretched as a tapestry without post or rafters; the clouds – an arch without foundation or pillar; the wind flying without wings; the angels going and coming, appearing like a wind or a flame. Thus sings the psalmist. He finds his desires and joy in God’s creations, which are so wonderfully made and so beautifully ordered together. But who pays attention to this or sees that this is so? Only faith and the Spirit.” – from Reading the Psalms with Luther

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

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 104:16-35**

**Year II – Christmas Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | First Sunday after Christmas Gospel – Luke 2:23-40 |
| Monday | **Circumcision and Name of Jesus – Luke 2:21** |
| Tuesday | Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child – Luke 2:25-40 |
| Wednesday | The Flight into Egypt – Matthew 2:13-15 |
| Thursday | Boy Jesus in the Temple – Luke 2:41-52 |
| Friday | John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord – Matthew 3:1-12 |
| Saturday | The Epiphany of Our Lord – Matthew 2:1-12 |

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| **Catechism: Second Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| *What is the Second Article of the Creed?*  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. | K+ |
| *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 Mar, 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 | 1st+ |
| 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. | 2nd+ |