

Please bring this sheet home with you to use this week with your family!

# Holy Cross at Home

## A Daily Prayer and Meditation Guide

For the Week of the First Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023 through January 6, 2024

The congregation gathers around the Word of God and the Sacraments each week, and this precious, spiritual food feeds the flock as they return to their callings in life. The purpose of this guide is to encourage family prayer at home, and to base that prayer on the Word of God that was heard in church. Not all of the following material needs to be followed. Please feel free to use what your family finds helpful in your devotional practice together.

### Order of Daily Prayer

Invocation ✠

Apostles' Creed (see *LSB* p. 286)

Memory verse for the week: Romans 8:26 *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 8

*Psalm Prayer:* We beseech Your Name, O Lord, which is great, wonderful and holy, that as You created the beasts of the field for the service of man, so would You cause man to delight in service toward You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings:	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
December 31	Isaiah 49:1-18	Matthew 1:1-17
January 1	Isaiah 49:22—51:16	Matthew 1:18-25
January 2	Isaiah 51:17—52:12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 3	Isaiah 52:13—54:10	Matthew 2:13-23
January 4	Isaiah 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
January 5	Isaiah 58:1—59:21	Luke 1:26-38
January 6	Isaiah 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
January 7	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80

Hymn of the Week: *LSB* 399 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

Catechism for the Week: Table of Duties (see *LSB* p. 328)

*To Parents*

*Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas:*

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Collect:*

O almighty and everlasting God, mercifully direct our ways, that we may walk in Thy law, and be made to abound in good works: through Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

*Collect:*

Lord God, heavenly Father, who hast given us the light of Thy holy word, the guiding star, which leadeth us to the Christ-child: Send, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it unto our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Thine only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, as our only Savior; devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Thy kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Thine only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

*Special Petitions:*

For our hearts to be truly prepared spiritually for the Christmas celebration  
For a godly sense of stewardship in our homes and church  
For our Early Childhood Center and Preschool  
For Holy Cross members who have not attended Divine Service recently

For Irene Anderson, Glorine Bahl, Cole Baresel, Jeanne Beck, Tim Carrao, Royce Closterman, Rev. Perry Copus, Bryan, Linda Hill, Tripp Hughes, Marian Johnson, Emma Kranz, Jackie Mulford, Darrell Schulz, Nat & Joyce Serfass, Chris Thompson and Blanch Weymuth.

Lord's Prayer ✠

Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer or Prayer at the Family Table

V: Let us bless the Lord!

R: Thanks be to God!

Blessing: The Lord Almighty bless us and direct our days and our deeds in ✠ His peace. Amen.

Looking Forward to Next Week:

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

Hymns: 403; 406; 404; 395; 598; 401

Readings: Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17