



# ✠ DAILY PRAYER ✠

**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**31 December 2023 – 6 January 2024**

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

*This guide is offered to assist families, individuals, and small groups in the simple forms of daily prayer included in Lutheran Service Book (pages 294-298). Use the form in LSB appropriate for the time of day and follow the weekly resources in this guide for hymns, readings, and prayers. Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.*

## ✠ ORDER FOR PRAYER

Morning	LSB, p. 295	Early Evening	LSB, p. 297
Noon	LSB, p. 296	Close of the Day	LSB, p. 298

✠ HYMN      *LSB 389 – Let All Together Praise Our God*

✠ SCRIPTURE READING (from **Daily Lectionary**, LSB, pp. 299-304)

	Old Testament	New Testament
Sun.	Isaiah 60: 1-22	Luke 1:39-56
Mon.	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
Tues.	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Wed.	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
Thu.	Isaiah 63:15-65:2	Luke 2:41-52
Fri.	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
Sat.	Isaiah 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38

✠ APOSTLES' CREED – *LSB*, inside back cover

✠ LORD'S PRAYER – *LSB*, inside back cover

## ✠ PRAYERS

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. Amen..**

## ✠ FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS

31 Dec. – Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

1 Jan. – Circumcision and Name of Jesus

2 Jan. – J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, *Pastor*

## ✠ CONCLUDING PRAYERS – Order of Prayer in *LSB*

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## BOOK OF CONCORD READING

*First Sunday after Christmas*

*Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article 13, paragraphs 3-5*

If we define the **sacraments as rites, which have the command of God and to which the promise of grace has been added**, it is easy to determine what the sacraments are, properly speaking. For humanly instituted rites are not sacraments, properly speaking, because human beings do not have the authority to promise grace. Therefore signs instituted without the command of God are not sure signs of grace, even though they perhaps serve to teach or admonish the common folk. **Therefore, the sacraments are actually baptism, the Lord's Supper, and absolution (the sacrament of repentance).** For these rites have the command of God and the promise of grace, which is the essence of the New Testament. For surely our hearts ought to be certain that when we are baptized, when we eat the body of the Lord, and when we are absolved, God truly forgives us on account of Christ. And God moves our hearts through the word and the rite at the same time so that they believe and receive faith just as Paul says [Rom. 10:17], "So faith comes from what is heard." For just as the Word enters through the ear in order to strike the heart, so also the rite enters through the eye in order to move the heart. The word and the rite have the same effect. Augustine put it well when he said that the sacrament is a "visible word," because the rite is received by the eyes and is, as it were, a picture of the Word, signifying the same thing as the Word. Therefore both have the same effect.

# LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK'S DIVINE SERVICE

## The Baptism of our Lord

7 January 2024

This “mini-Bible study” is included for your use in personal devotions or with friends during the coming week as you prepare to hear God’s Word next Sunday. The questions provided after each of the Scripture texts are intended for your thought and reflection.

### OLD TESTAMENT – **Isaiah 42:1-7**

1. Who is speaking in this passage (through the prophet Isaiah)? About whom is He speaking?
2. How does this passage from Isaiah describe our Lord Jesus Christ? What will He bring forth for the Gentiles, that is, all of us who are not Jewish by birth?
3. As a “light to the Gentiles” what would Jesus do? Read John 9.

### PSALMODY – **Psalms 45**

1. Psalm 45 is a song about a royal wedding. Who is the King? Who is His bride?
2. What comfort is there in thinking of Jesus as the King who marries His bride the Church?

### EPISTLE – **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

1. What kinds of things does God choose to work with to “shame the wise”?
2. How is Jesus’ birth “foolish” and “weak”? How is His baptism “foolish” and “weak”?
3. How are the preaching of the Gospel, Baptism, Absolution, or the Lord’s Supper “foolish” and “weak” in the eyes of many?
4. What comfort do you find in the fact that God works in ways opposite to worldly wisdom?

### HOLY GOSPEL – **Matthew 3:13-17**

1. What kind of people need to be baptized (or cleansed)?
2. What is Jesus’ stated reason for being baptized? How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 help us understand Jesus’ words?
3. How were all three Persons of the Holy Trinity present at Jesus’ baptism?
4. How are They present at our baptisms?
5. In your Baptism God says basically the same thing that He said to His Son Jesus: “You are my beloved son/daughter, in whom I am well pleased.” How does this strengthen and prepare you for daily life?