

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ Feast of All Saints ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of November 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Christmas is a pretty big deal, no matter who you are. The department stores change their music to Christmas Carols, homes are decorated with Christmas lights, and Starbucks comes out with a new flavor of coffee: *Christmas Blend*. And then there's the Church: Advent is a season of preparation for this great feast of the Church. There's Christmas Eve, candles, darkness, and *Silent Night*. Then Christmas Day where we sing *Joy to the World* and Luther's wonderful hymn, *From Heaven Above*. Shepherds, Angels, animals, and a manger. And it's all about God becoming man in Jesus the Christ!

The second article of the creed confesses our belief in the eternal Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ. The Almighty God and Father that we confessed with the first article is now followed by the confession that this God has become man for us in Jesus. That's what Christmas is all about:

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21)

But who is this Jesus? There are many ways to go wrong here. If you push His divinity too far, you quickly lose His humanity; and by losing His humanity, you lose the redemption of man that He desires to bring. On the other hand, if you over stress His humanity, Jesus becomes nothing more than a moral figure, an example for us to try to follow—and then we're left without the atonement, which only God could bring about.

Our Catechism does a wonderful job holding these two together—confessing Jesus as *"true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary."*

It's an amazing thing that God would become man in Christ. It's a paradox—almost nonsensical. The Creator of the universe rests in the arms of His creation. But even more amazing yet: This Jesus—both God and Man—is my Lord. He's MY Lord. Eternal God became man in time *for me*. That's a mystery not even Starbucks can top!

**True God, True Man**

Responsive Prayer 2, *Lutheran Service Book* p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**Matthew 1:21**

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins."*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism ...

**The Creed**

**What is the Second Article?**

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.

**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.

Daily Readings...

*Monday (11/4):* Jeremiah 5:1-19; Matthew 22:23-46

*Tuesday (11/5):* Jeremiah 7:1-29; Matthew 23:1-12

*Wednesday (11/6):* Jeremiah 8:18-9:12; Matthew 23:13-39

*Thursday (11/7):* Jeremiah 11:1-23; Matthew 24:1-28

*Friday (11/8):* Jeremiah 20:1-18; Matthew 24:29-51

*Saturday (11/9):* Jeremiah 22:1-23; Matthew 25:1-13

*Sunday (11/10):* Jeremiah 23:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer of the Week...

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

**Psalm 31**

Hymn of the Week... *"For All the Saints"*

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Exodus 3:1-15

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

Luke 20:27-40