

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 14 through January 20

[ARTICLE II. ORIGINAL SIN]

¹ The opponents approve Article II, “Original Sin,” but they criticize our definition of original sin.² Here at the very outset His Imperial Majesty will see that the authors of the Confutation are lacking not only in judgment but also in honesty. While we wanted simply to describe what original sin includes, they viciously misinterpret and distort a statement that has nothing wrong in it. They say that being without the fear of God and faith is actual guilt, and therefore they deny that it is original guilt.

² These quibbles have obviously come from the schools, and not from the emperor’s council. This sophistry is easy to refute. But to show all good men that our teaching on this point is not absurd, we ask them first to look at the German text of the Confession. This will exonerate us of the charge of innovation, for it says: “It is also taught that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lusts and inclinations from their mothers’ wombs and are unable by nature to have true fear of God or true faith in God.”³

³ This passage testifies that in those who are born according to the flesh we deny the existence not only of actual fear and trust in God but also of the possibility and gift to produce it. We say that anyone born in this way has concupiscence and cannot produce true fear and trust in God. What is wrong with this? This explanation should be enough for any unprejudiced man. In this sense the Latin definition denies that human nature has the gift and capacity to produce the fear and trust of God, and it denies that adults actually produce it. When we use the term “concupiscence,” we do not mean only its acts or fruits, but the continual inclination of nature.

⁴ Later on we shall show at length that our definition agrees with the traditional one. First we must show why we used these words here. Our scholastic opponents admit that concupiscence is the so-called “material element” of original sin.⁴ Hence it belongs in the definition, especially now when so many philosophize about it irreligiously.

⁵ There are some⁵ who claim that original sin is not some vice or corruption in human nature, but only the subjection to mortality that Adam’s descendants bear because of his guilt, without any evil of their own. They go on to say that one is not condemned to eternal death because of original sin but, like a child born of a slave, is in this condition because of one’s mother and not by one’s own fault.

⁶ To show our disagreement with this evil doctrine, we made mention of concupiscence; with the best of intentions we named it and explained it as a disease since human nature is born full of corruption and faults. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. II:1-6

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.
Amen.

Psalm – 139:1-10

The Catechism – *The Ten Commandments – Seventh Commandment*

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, January 14 – Romans 5:1-21

Monday, January 15 – Romans 6:1-23

Tuesday, January 16 – Romans 7:1-20

Wednesday, January 17 – Romans 7:21-8:17

Thursday, January 18 – Romans 8:18-39 (*Feast of the Confession of St. Peter; suggested add'l reading: Acts 4:8-13*)

Friday, January 19 – Romans 9:1-18

Saturday, January 20 – Romans 9:19-33 (*Commemoration of Sarah*)

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church	All Fire, Police, and EMS	Aline Duval
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	workers and volunteers	Donald Duval
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Judy Fisher	Lenny Kiesling
The Atlantic District	Edna Limouze	Rob Arrasate
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	Diane Malenczak	Josephine Lowth
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Alice Dreher	James McMorris
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Thelma Stegemann	Rene Duval
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Irene Jones	Alan Rubenstein
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Florence Vollmer	Jim Arrasate
Concordia College – New York	Susan Marotta	Anita Grube
The Rev. John Nunes	Stacy Harris	Lee Sclafani
The Concordia University System	Jim Sclafani	Michael Seeger
Lutheran Parochial Schools	Andrew Brooks	Kathy Schneemann
Our Sister Churches	Lorraine Keller	Karl Ott
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Louise Blydenburgh	Don Lang
The United States of America	Thelma DeJoseph	Deanna Schwartzman
President Donald Trump	Al DeJoseph	Ed Baumann
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Richard Meltsner	Nancy Galasso
U.S. Military Personnel	Madison Coffey	Diane Dadone
	Peter DiMartini	Carl Sapp
	William Rossiter	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Larry Dimiceli	The Rev. Jimmy & Yasuyo Coffey
	Suzanne Weil	Alexandria Rappe
	Frances Flanagan	Ann Inoue
	Richard Duffy	
	Marge Glass	
	Bobby Verspoor	

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn for the Week – *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling*

LSB #827, st. 3

For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

Mark 1:14-20