

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Advent
December 7 through December 13

FAITH

Chapter 78. What Sins are Trivial and What Heinous is a Matter for God's Judgment.

Now, what sins are trivial and what heinous is not a matter to be decided by man's judgment, but by the judgment of God. For it is plain that the apostles themselves have given an indulgence in the case of certain sins: take, for example, what the Apostle Paul says to those who are married: *Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer: and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.* Now it is possible that it might not have been considered a sin to have intercourse with a spouse, not with a view to the procreation of children, which is the great blessing of marriage, but for the sake of carnal pleasure, and to save the incontinent from being led by their weakness into the deadly sin of fornication, or adultery, or another form of uncleanness which it is shameful even to name, and into which it is possible that they might be drawn by lust under the temptation of Satan. It is possible, I say, that this might not have been considered a sin, had the apostle not added: *But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.* Who, then, can deny that it is a sin, when confessedly it is only by apostolic authority that permission is granted to those who do it? Another case of the same kind is where he says: *Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?* And shortly afterwards: *If then you have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the Church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.* Now it might have been supposed in this case that it is not a sin to have a quarrel with another, that the only sin is in wishing to have it adjudicated upon outside the Church, had not the apostle immediately added: *Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law with one another.* And lest any one should excuse himself by saying that he had a just cause, and was suffering wrong, and that he only wished the sentence of the judges to remove his wrong, the apostle immediately anticipates such thoughts and excuses, and says: *Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?* Thus bringing us back to our Lord's saying, *If any man will sue you at the law, and take away your coat, let him have your cloak also;* and again, *Of him that takes away your goods, ask them not again.* Therefore our Lord has forbidden His followers to go to law with other men about worldly affairs. And carrying out this principle, the apostle here declares that to do so is altogether a fault. But when, notwithstanding, he grants his permission to have such cases between brethren decided in the Church, other brethren adjudicating, and only sternly forbids them to be carried outside the Church, it is manifest that here again an indulgence is extended to the infirmities of the weak. It is in view, then, of these sins, and others of the same sort, and of others again more trifling still, which consist of offenses in words and thought (as the Apostle James confesses, *In many things we offend all*), that we need to pray every day and often to the Lord, saying, *Forgive us our debts,* and to add in truth and sincerity, *as we forgive our debtors.* ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapter 78

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 – 72:1-7

The Catechism – Baptism – Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” *Romans 6:4*

Daily Readings:

Sunday, December 7 – 1 John 1:1—2:14 (*Commemoration of Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter*)

Monday, December 8 – 1 John 2:15-29

Tuesday, December 9 – 1 John 3:1-24

Wednesday, December 10 – 1 John 4:1-21

Thursday, December 11 – 1 John 5:1-21

Friday, December 12 – Jude 1-25

Saturday, December 13 – Revelations 1:1-20 (*Commemoration of Lucia, Martyr*)

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

Prayers

Let us pray...Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, 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; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Gail Acker; Lindy Amabile; Peggy Arciero; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Hubert Bauer; Jim Baum; David Bayley; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Tara Coppola; Ingrid Chopping; Jackie Cutler & Family; Lucy Decker; Jeanne Demmers; Ed Doepp; Ruth Dorsty; Charlie Erb; Holly Erb; Carol Foth; Anne Grant; Matthew Grau; Michael Hanrahan; Rebecca Helsom; Barbara Helwig; Olivia Hintz; Arthur Holden; The Hole Family; Kelly Housto; Marilyn Jorg; Bill Kopf; Alfred Longhitano; Alex Lopacki; Sue Madsen; Dorothy Mistler; Terri O'Brian; Douglas Pabst; Michael Panarese; Gabrielle Pancir; Bryan Paul; Joe Pinz; Carol Rappolt; Christian Rappolt; Joann Roland; Alice Ryan; Lisa Schantz; Judy Scheiner; Dakota Schmidt; Art Schmidt; Chuck Scott; Judy Scott; Carol Shaw; Nandy Singh; Judy Smith; Dina St. Giles; Bill & Deanna Suckow; Gertrude Sutorius; Alessandra Trevisan; Ingrid Vessie; Patrice Vitalino; Jo-Ann Walther; Jack Whitehouse; Alex Wilson; Edward Zerbe

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

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 – *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

LSB #344, st. 5

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

† Look Ahead for Next Week:

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-11

Matthew 11:2-15