

FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words from the following Scripture verses.

For I said, “_____ **steadfast** _____ love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your _____ **faithfulness** _____.” — Psalm 89:2

Mightier than the _____ **thunders** _____ of many water, mightier than the
_____ **waves** _____ of the sea, the LORD on high is _____ **mighty** _____. — Psalm 93:4

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of _____ **Jesse** _____, and a branch
from his roots shall bear _____ **fruit** _____. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest
upon him, the Spirit of _____ **wisdom** _____ and understanding, the Spirit of
_____ **counsel** _____ and might, the Spirit of _____ **knowledge** _____
and the fear of the LORD. — Isaiah 11:1-2

And because you are _____ **sons** _____, God has sent the _____ **Spirit** _____
of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! _____ **Father** _____!” So you are no
longer a _____ **slave** _____, but a son, and if a son, then an _____ **heir** _____
through God. — Galatians 4:6-7

“Lord, now you are letting your _____ **servant** _____ depart in peace, according
to your _____ **word** _____; for my eyes have seen your _____ **salvation** _____
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a _____ **light** _____ for
revelation to the Gentiles, and for _____ **glory** _____ to your people Israel.”
— Luke 2:29-32



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Lambs at Pasture™

The First Sunday after Christmas

2017

INTROIT

Psalm 93:1, 3-4; antiphon: Psalm 9: 93:5, 2

Your decrees are very trustworthy;

holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Your throne is established from of old;

you are from everlasting.

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

Yes, the world is established;

it shall never be moved.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;

the floods lift up their roaring.

Mightier than the thunders of many water, mightier than the waves of the sea,

the LORD on high is mighty.

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Your decrees are very trustworthy;

holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Your throne is established from of old;

you are from everlasting.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 93:1

Alleluia. The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #382 — We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer with Explanation (page 19)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

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.

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 89:1-8

What is the covenant (promise) that God made to David? (verses 3-4)

Through the lineage of David, the promised Messiah is to come.

What are some the qualities of the LORD mentioned in this reading?

Verses 1-3 — The love of the LORD is steadfast (never ending). The LORD is faithful, He Keeps His word and promises.

Verses 5-8 — God is powerful and mighty, He can do anything.

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Isaiah 11:1-5

Who is the shoot from the stump of Jesse? (verse 1)

Christ Jesus — He is from the lineage of David and the promised Messiah.

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

2 Samuel 7:1-16

What did God promise David? (verses 8-11)

God promised David to make him a king. David's rule would be in peace.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Luke 2:(22-32) 33-40

What was the purification according to the Law of Moses?
(verses 22-24, see also Leviticus 12:2-8)

The laws of purification after childbirth stated that on the eighth day after a son was born, he was to be circumcised. Thirty-three days later, the child was to be brought to the priest serving at the Temple. (Leviticus 12:1-8)

As prescribed in the Law (Exodus 13:2, 12), the firstborn, if a male, was to be set aside (consecrated) to the LORD. In Jesus, we see this Law fulfilled, for He is the Holy One of God. (John 6:69)

Joseph and Mary, offer the alternative sacrifice for purification prescribed in the Law (Leviticus 12:8). Yet, behold, they present Jesus, the True Sacrifice, for a far greater purification — the payment for sin. For Jesus is the Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

Where in the Divine Service do we find verses 29-32?

The Nunc Dimittis — Song of Simeon is sung after receiving Christ in His very Body and Blood (the Sacrament of the Altar or Lord's Supper).

Divine Service, Setting One: LSB page 165

Divine Service, Setting Two: LSB page 182

Divine Service, Setting Three: LSB page 199-200

Divine Service, Setting Four: LSB page 211

What does Simeon's blessing to Mary mean? (verses 34-35)

"What did Simeon mean by these words? He meant, 'Dear Mary, people will stumble at and take offense at your Child. They will fall and rise up, curse and speak against Him, and slander and condemn His words, works, ways, and life.'" (Johann Spangenberg, *The Christian Year of Grace*, 43).

Mary's heart and soul would be pierced by having to stand by and hear her Son being slandered and spoken against; seeing her Son suffer and die for the sins of the world. So it is still today. The sword of the world continues to pierce the soul of our mother, the holy Christian Church. She too is slandered; the Gospel teachings She holds to are mocked and made light of. The Body of Christ—Christians—must yet suffer, surrounded on all sides by wickedness and ungodliness. But even as Mary saw the risen Jesus, so also the Church will behold Her victorious Lord when He comes again in Light, and all sorrow will be turned to gladness that can never be taken away.

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Galatians 4:1-7

What does this lesson mean?

God will send His (and Mary's) Son to redeem us (those who have faith in Jesus Christ) from the Law through His holy and innocent death on the cross and resurrection. We are then seen as His innocent children.

"God sent His Son into the world not to judge and condemn the world' (John 3:17), but to take away the terror of the Law and to save men by the Gospel." (Johann Spangenberg, *The Christian Year of Grace*, 40)

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 43 (pages 7-73), question 95 (pages 107-109), question 122 (pages 125-126), question 123 (pages 126-127), and question 125 (pages 127-130)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer with Explanation and the First Sunday after Christmas?

It is through Jesus and the Holy Spirit that we are to call God our Father.