

## ***DAILY DEVOTIONS for December 22-28***

Daily Devotions are essential for a healthy faith life. The head of the household should lead daily prayer with all the members of the household whenever possible. If you live alone, think of someone you could invite to join you, either in person or on the phone. Resources for Daily Devotions are found on pages 294-330 in the hymnal. (You may borrow a hymnal from the church or ask about ordering hymnal(s) for yourself and others.) We also have free copies of Portals of Prayer with devotions for every day. Every person is encouraged to learn, pray, and yes, *memorize* a hymn, a Bible verse, and a selection from the Catechism each week. Pastor Mike would be glad to visit you to help you begin or improve your practice of Daily Devotions.

### ***WEEKLY HYMN: #725***

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Text: Public domain

*WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE*

Psalm 19:1

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

*WEEKLY CATECHISM: THE FIRST ARTICLE*  
*Creation*

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

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## ***We pray for others and for ourselves***

✝ We pray for all those facing health problems: Claudia, Darlene F, Gloria B, Kathy, Crystal, Hawk's friend Todd, Jerry Bullock, Joan C, Jan's business colleague Brian (hearing), Jan's friend Joe, Jan's friend Helen and her sister Margaret, and for her friend John who was badly injured in a fall from a ladder.

✝ Give thanks for improvements for Paris, Linda, and Zoey.

✝ For all with cancer: Colleen's niece Karen, Jerry B, Jerry's brother-in-law Ron, Harriet's brother Jerry, Karl, Jim M' neighbor John, Dick's friend Jim