

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2017 through December 10, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Advent—Advent means “coming.” It is the beginning of the Church Year. During Advent we “celebrate waiting.” No one likes to wait for what he really wants. As Christians we want to receive the full glory of our salvation in Christ our King. But we must wait. In a sense, Advent celebrates the cold, harsh, sober realities of life which we must endure before the resurrection of all flesh. We live in the time of faith’s struggle against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. God’s promises are the strength of faith by which we endure the struggle until our Lord’s return. Advent, therefore, celebrates living in hope of the fulfillment of God’s promises. As we prepare to celebrate His coming in the flesh, we look forward with certainty to His coming again in glory, even as we enjoy His coming to us NOW in the Holy Gospel and Sacraments. “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! ‘Christ IS near!’ we hear it say! Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!”

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 8:31b-32

If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
³² And you shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free.

Psalm 24 and/or the appointed daily psalms for Advent listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The psalms for Advent remain the same each week.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	24	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	24
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	85, 91	14, 16	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72	25, 110

Readings for the Week of the First Sunday in Advent

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1-9	Isaiah 9:8—10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14
Monday	Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption from the Near Kinsman—Ruth 4:1-22	Is. 10:12-27a, 33-34	2 Peter 1:1-21
Tuesday	Hannah Prays for a Son—1 Samuel 1:1-18	Isaiah 11:1—12:6	2 Peter 2:1-22
Wednesday	The Prophet Samuel Is Born—1 Samuel 1:19—2:2	Isaiah 14:1-23	2 Peter 3:1-18
Thursday	The Song of Hannah—1 Samuel 2:1-11	Isaiah 24:1-13	1 John 1:1—2:14
Friday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25	Isaiah 24:14—25:12	1 John 2:15-29
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 26:20—27:13	1 John 4:1-21

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer— Second Petition and Third Petition

What is the Second Petition? Thy Kingdom come.	Preschool +
What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.	First Grade +
How does God’s kingdom come? God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.	Second Grade +

<p><i>What is the Third Petition?</i> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>How is God's will done?</i> God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.</p>	Third Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, Collect for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Prayer on the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your kingdom comes to us wherever the Gospel of Jesus is preached and His sacraments are administered. Through these gifts You give us Your Holy Spirit and create faith in our hearts. We give thanks to You for these gifts. We give thanks to You for the promise that Jesus will come again in glory on the Last Day to give us all the fullness of His kingdom. Forgive us for failing to pray for the coming of Your kingdom. By Your Word and Spirit, reign in our hearts and in Your Church. Through the promises of the Gospel, continue to give us Your Holy Spirit, so that by Your grace we believe Your holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and forever after in eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer on the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your good and gracious will is to keep and preserve us in the true faith. Your good and gracious will is done without our prayer and does not depend upon us. For this we give You thanks. Forgive us for not trusting that You promise to preserve us in Christ. Break and hinder every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow Your name or let Your kingdom come. Strengthen and keep us firm in Your Word and faith until we die; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

- Kurt and Elsie Meyle, 23rd wedding anniversary.*
- Bernice Lemke recuperating from foot surgery.*
- Dan Pionke, son of Bev, undergoing heart surgery on Wednesday.*
- Kathleen Miller, wife of Jim, hospitalized and recovering from a stroke and pneumonia*
- Gilbert Leon, undergoing out-patient treatment for cancer.*
- Walter Schmudlach (father of Mark Schmudlach) suffering from prostate and bone cancer;*
- Henry Fuchs suffering with lymphoma.*

Collect for the First week of Advent:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"Prepare the Royal Highway" (stanzas 1-2)

Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent	December 10, 2017
<p>Hymns: 351, 336, 355, 348, 674, 338</p> <p>Malachi 4:1-6: <i>The prophet Malachi prophesies concerning the coming of the "Sun of Righteousness" who will bring healing to all who trust in His Word. By His righteousness He delivers His people from the judgment of hell.</i></p> <p>Romans 15:4-13: <i>The Old Testament Scriptures were written to give us hope through the promises of the Holy Gospel. This hope and encouragement sustains and comforts us in the trials and hardships of life. It is an absolutely sure and certain hope that the Word of God gives us.</i></p> <p>Luke 21:25-36: <i>The signs in the heavens, the distress of nations, and the perplexities upon earth are nothing for the Christian to fear. Although the whole world might be falling apart around us, the Christian takes courage from the Lord's Word because He knows that these are merely the signs of the Lord's coming. The Lord is in complete and total charge and He will not forsake His flock, no matter how difficult the end times might get. The Lord will have "the last laugh" on the last day, for everyone "will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Our response to the signs of tribulation of the end times is to "look up," or anticipate the Lord's return all the more. In other words, when we see the signs which cause the world great distress, we are called to be encouraged that the Lord is fulfilling His Word just as He said. "This generation," the church, "will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." That is wonderful comfort for the redeemed of the Lord!</i></p>	