

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
December 2, 2018 through December 9, 2018

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Praying the Psalms: Psalm 12—Prayer for Faithfulness in the Midst of Apostasy—When we look at the world we seem to see fewer and fewer who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians who once believed have apostatized and fallen away from Christ. False doctrine—“lying words”—is on the increase. Through false teaching many are led astray and the wickedness of a people who has turned away from the Lord increases. Luther’s hymn paraphrase on this psalm captures the theme: “O Lord, look down from heav’n, behold / And let Thy pity waken; / How few are we within Thy fold, / Thy saints by men forsaken! / True faith seems quenched on ev’ry hand, / Men suffer not Thy Word to stand; / Dark times have us o’ertaken.” (TLH 260, st. 1) What shall we do? Psalm 12 is a prayer in which the faithful call upon the Lord to help and save them from apostasy and false teaching. In the face of such threats we commend ourselves to the Lord who promises to arise and do battle for us. “For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now I will arise,” says the LORD; “I will set him in the safety for which he yearns” (vs. 5). The Word of the Lord is pure and preserves the faith of Christians through the fire of persecution and suffering for the name of Jesus. The faith of every generation of Christians rests upon His promises for protection and preservation: “You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever” (vs. 7). Luther’s concluding stanza summarizes the central thrust of Psalm 12: “Defend Thy truth, O God, and stay / This evil generation; / And from the error of its way / Keep Thine own congregation. / The wicked everywhere abound / And would Thy little flock confound; / But Thou art our Salvation.” (TLH 260, st. 6)

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.

Theme: Lord, Save Us Now from the Threatening Perils of Our Sins!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 10:2-28

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Psalm 12 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, preserve the precious doctrine of the Gospel among us and save us from the apostasy, unbelief, and false teaching of our age; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

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—Matthew 21:1-9	Isaiah 8:9—9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19
Monday	Jesus Teaches Us to Pray in the Sermon on the Mount—Mt. 6:5-15	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14
Tuesday	Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-26	Is 10:12-27a, 33-34	2 Peter 1:1-21
Wednesday	Watch and Pray—Luke 21:25-36	Isaiah 11:1—12:6	2 Peter 2:1-22
Thursday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Matthew 26:36-45	Isaiah 14:1-23	2 Peter 3:1-18
Friday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25	Isaiah 24:1-13	1 John 1:1—2:14
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 24:14—25:12	1 John 2:15-29
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24

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

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 +

<p><i>How does God's kingdom come?</i> 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.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What is the Third Petition?</i> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</p>	Second Grade +
<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>	Third 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, and the Collect for the Week

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, celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary;
 Loretta Lampen, mother of Karen Frerking, recuperating from surgery for a perforated colon.
 Rev. Edwin Suelflow, recuperating from pneumonia and a recent hospitalization;
 Bob Rothe, undergoing shoulder surgery on December 3; Bob Piper, undergoing stem cell therapy for blood cancer;
 Phyllis, sister of Rosie Kopting and Professor Kim Loontjer, of CUW in hospice care.*

Collect for the week of the First Sunday in 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

"Savior of the Nations Come" (stanzas 1-3)

Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018

Hymns: 508, 336, 513, 642, 345, 338

Malachi 4:1-6: *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.*

Romans 15:4-13: *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. The words and promises of God are the basis for the faith and fellowship we share together as Christians. It is also that which motivates the church to preach the Gospel to the nations. The blessing of the Lord concludes this week's epistle: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Luke 21:25-36: *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!*