

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent  
December 1, through December 8, 2019

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 61: A Prayer for the Assurance of God’s Protection on Earth and for Eternity—** Psalm 61 was likely prayed by David before he succeeded Saul as King and began his reign. He prays for the Lord’s protection. When his heart is overwhelmed, he prays that the Lord would lead him to the Rock that is higher than he. That Rock is Christ, his Lord and Savior. Though Saul was his enemy, David anticipates the teaching of the Apostle Paul who declares that our true enemy is Satan and the forces of darkness (Eph. 6:12). In the end, David prays for his King and desires only what is best for the King: “You will prolong the king’s life, His years as many generations. He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!” Luther extols the blessings of a stable government, even though the governing authorities have their flaws. In the end, God works even through the secular kingdom to maintain order and to provide for people’s well-being.

## 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: Cast Off the Works of Darkness and Put on the Armor of Light!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Peter 5:7-8

[Cast] all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Psalm 61 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, Father almighty, in the troubles of life and when my heart is overwhelmed by fear or anxiety, lead me to Christ, the Rock who is higher than I. Protect our government and civil rulers that Your Church may enjoy peace and safety; 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

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Advent 1: The Triumphal Entry—Matthew 21:1-9	
Monday	Jacob Flees from Laban—Genesis 31:1-21	John 4:43-54
Tuesday	Laban Pursues Jacob—Genesis 31:22-42	John 5:1-15
Wednesday	Laban’s Covenant with Jacob—Genesis 31:43-55	John 5:15-223
Thursday	Esau Comes to Meet Jacob—Genesis 32:1-21	John 5:24-30
Friday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25	Daniel 9:20-27
Saturday	Advent 2: The Sun of Righteousness—Malachi 4:1-6	Romans 15:4-13

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

What is the Second Petition? <b>Thy Kingdom come.</b>	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 +
What is the Third Petition? <b>Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? 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.	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 +
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**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, 25th wedding anniversary.  
 The sick: Jan Meyle (mother of Kurt Meyle, Sr.) recovering from hip surgery;  
Oliver Siegel, recovering from spine surgery;  
Vern Ponto, friend of Patty Hasz, recovering from surgery for a torn Achilles' tendon;  
Mason Perez, infant great-nephew of Mark and Melody Ruhbusch suffering with complications related to viral meningitis;  
Roger Laubenstein and Rev. Karl Fabrizius in cancer treatment.  
 In hospice care: Judy Jones, Kurt Scheler, Francis Sidwell, and Marion Reniewicki (aunt of John Trapp).*

**Collect for 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** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (stanza 1) 341

**Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent** **December 8, 2019**

**Hymns:** 513, 336, 351, 621, 515, 348  
**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.  
**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 leading up to 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," that is, to anticipate and look forward to 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!