

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, through December 15, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 62: A Prayer against Those Who Delight in Tearing Others Down—Self-righteousness and pride is the perennial disease of our sinful flesh, because of it, the Old Adam delights in tearing others down and exalting one's self. This prayer against such pride and arrogance is also a prayer for every Christian to realize the self-righteousness that lurks within his nature, to confess it, and to abide in the humility of faith. For the Christian our hope is in God alone. We rely upon His power. We trust in His mercy. We wait silently for Him. We know that we are but a vapor, a breath that soon dissipates into nothing. Where there is self-righteousness and pride, there will be the destruction of others. Where there is faith in the Lord Jesus, who humbled Himself in service to the neighbor, even to the point of death, there will be compassion and concern for others ahead of one's self. The way of faith is clear: Christ alone is our salvation and our glory; He alone is the rock of our strength and our refuge.

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: Look Up! Your Redemption Draws Near!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Timothy 6:8, 10a

Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

^{10a} For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Psalm 62 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Teach me, O Lord, to walk in the humility of faith in Christ Jesus, to build others up rather than tearing them down, and to rely confidently in Your strength and mercy throughout all the days of my life; 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 2: Signs of the Second Coming—Luke 21:25-36	
Monday	The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	2 Samuel 7:1-17
Tuesday	The Visitation—Luke 1:39-45	Micah 5:2-5a
Wednesday	The Magnificat—Luke 1:46-56	1 Samuel 2:1-11
Thursday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Luke 1:57-66	Isaiah 40:1-11
Friday	The Benedictus—Luke 1:67-80	Leviticus 26:40-45
Saturday	Advent 3: Comfort My People—Isaiah 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer— Fourth Petition

What is the Fourth Petition? Give us this day our daily bread.	Preschool +
What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.	First Grade +
What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.	Second Grade +

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

Prayers on the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, You generously give daily bread to us and even to all evil people without our prayers. You richly and daily provide us with everything that we need to support us in our body and life. Lead us to realize this, that we might receive our daily bread with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust in You for daily bread and, according to Your good and gracious will, give us what we truly need to support us in our body and life, including food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The sick: Jan Meyle (mother of Kurt Meyle, Sr.) recovering from hip surgery;

Julie, Jenny Larson's Aunt, hospitalized in ICU;

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 battling for his life because of 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 Second Sunday in Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" (stanzas 1 and 4)

345

Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2019

Hymns: 344, 347, 354, 349, 640, 342

Isaiah 40:1-11: "Comfort, yes, comfort My people" says your God. Speak comfort to Jerusalem and cry out to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." These words of glorious prophecy foretell the consummation of Christ's work through the preaching of the Gospel. By the proclamation of the Gospel the Holy Spirit lays upon our hearts the comfort of the forgiveness of all our sins. This gift of grace is greater than all our sins for it comes from the faithful Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep.

I Corinthians 4:1-5: The Apostle Paul speaks of himself and all ministers of the Gospel as "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." In this section of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, he is encouraging the pastors in Corinth to be faithful to the Word of God in their preaching and in their administration of the Sacraments. They are to be engaged in faithful catechesis, so that the gifts of the Sacraments, called in this section, "the mysteries of grace," might be received faithfully in the congregation. He makes it clear that while the pastors are called to serve the Church, they are nonetheless accountable to Christ who calls them to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments faithfully according to God's Word.

Matthew 11:2-11: John the Baptist didn't have a very long ministry. He had no retirement. He had no pension. He preached for a few years preparing the way for Jesus' coming. He was imprisoned by King Herod Agrippa I and, shortly after the events of this Gospel reading, his head was cut off and presented to the king's brother's wife Herodias with whom Herod had been in an adulterous marriage. So goes the way of God's faithful prophets in this world. When they preach repentance, uncovering man's sin in order to proclaim to them God's salvation in Christ, they are persecuted and put to death. The imprisonment and death of John the Baptist teaches us that there are more important things in life than happiness and success, namely Christ. He is our Lord and Savior. He is the object of our worship and the focus of our hope. It is Christ alone who leads us by and through His suffering and death to the glory of eternal life with God. By all the things through which we suffer, faith is tried in a furnace, the dross is purged, and we are fitted for the Kingdom of God. This is why the introit for this Sunday is the Word of God from Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"