

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Third Sunday in Advent
 December 15, through December 22, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 63: A Prayer to Seek One’s Joy and Contentment only in the Lord—While wandering in the wilderness and being hunted by his enemies, David expresses that the only one he needs is his God and Lord. At the heart of David’s prayer and confession of faith is the assertion that the Lord’s lovingkindness is better than life itself or any pleasure that this life may offer. As Christians, we believe in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. His love, mercy, and forgiveness is the fountain and source of all our joy and contentment, therefore we rejoice in Him at all times. There is no one we love more than He who gave His life for us. “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.”

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: Rejoice in the Lord Always! Again I say, Rejoice!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
 and in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 63 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, teach me to seek You in Your Word and in prayer early each day. My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You. Grant me to find my joy and contentment only in You for Your lovingkindness is better than life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 3: “Tell John What You See and Hear”—Matt. 11:2-11	
Monday	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14	Isaiah 62:10-12
Thursday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20	Isaiah 52:6-10
Friday	No School—Eve of St. Thomas, Apostle— John 20:24-29	Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
Saturday	Advent 4: The Prophet Greater than Moses—Deut. 18:15-19	Philippians 4:4-7

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer— The Fifth and Sixth Petitions

<p>What is the Fifth Petition? And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>What is the Sixth Petition? And lead us not into temptation.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.</p>	Third Grade +

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

Prayer on the Fifth Petition

Heavenly Father, forgive us our trespasses. Do not look upon our sins, or deny any of our prayers because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that You would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. Grant us Your forgiveness, so that we, too, will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer on the Sixth Petition

Heavenly Father, lead us out of temptation. Guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The family of Judy Jones who mourn her death.

The sick: Pat Pom, recovering from a recent hospitalization;

Pete Greschner, hospitalized and recuperating from surgery;

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 battling for his life because of viral meningitis;

Roger Laubenstein and Rev. Karl Fabrizio in cancer treatment.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler, Francis Sidwell, Julie, great aunt of Katie and Derek Larson

Collect for the Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019

Hymns: 346, 357, 375, 636, 383

Deuteronomy 18:15-19: Jesus is the Prophet greater than Moses for He is Himself the Word incarnate, the glory of God, full of grace and truth. He does not merely proclaim the Law and Promises of God. He is their fulfillment. He is salvation.

Philippians 4:4-7: Out of our faith in Christ we commend all of our needs, concerns, and anxieties to Him, knowing that we have the promise of full and complete salvation. Upon this promise our peace with God rests. The life of faith rejoices in all things, especially suffering, by which Christ is manifest in us. We rejoice in suffering because through the suffering of our Savior our life was reconciled to God.

John 1:19-28: Priests and Levites were sent from Jerusalem to John the Baptist to inquire about his ministry and by what authority he was sent to preach and to baptize. The priests and Levites were custodians of the Old Testament temple worship and should have known what the Old Testament Scriptures and liturgy were preparing for. John clearly confessed that he was not the Christ, but rather "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" John quoted Isaiah the prophet that the priests and Levites might know that he was the promised forerunner who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah's coming. John testified that the Messiah was the eternal Son of God by stating, "There stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me [or ranks higher than I], whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." By referring to the loosing of Messiah's sandal strap, John testified that Jesus was the true Redeemer Kinsman of His people, who would exercise the right of redemption by laying His foot bare in His death upon the cross. By the shedding of His blood He would redeem His people from their sins and crush Satan under His bruised heel (Gen. 3:15). John's testimony to Jesus and call to repentance continues to ring out today in faithful preaching that we might be prepared to receive Jesus in broken and contrite hearts.