

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
November 29 through December 6, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 101—The King’s Coronation Psalm—Every psalm ultimately finds its fulfillment in Christ. Psalm 101 is a coronation psalm for the king. Verses 1-4 are the promises that the king makes. How fitting they are in the mouth of our Lord. He sings of mercy and justice. He behaves wisely. He walks with integrity and a perfect heart. He renounces all evil and does not set it before his eyes. He turns away from wickedness. Verses 5-8 are the King’s pledge of how He will govern His people. He will govern them with truth. All slander, falsehood, and arrogance will be put away. He will protect the faithful of the land who walk in integrity and uprightness. The liar shall not continue in the presence of the Lord. He will destroy the wicked of the land and every evil doer will be cut off from the city of the Lord. At the heart of such evil is the dishonesty of an impenitent heart. In the kingdom of Christ, truth is manifest in the honesty of a humble and contrite heart that confesses sin and confesses the truth of God’s Word in a salvation that we do not deserve but which is wholly provided for us by the King. To Him belongs everlasting allegiance and faithfulness, for there is salvation in no one else.

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: The Lord Is Our Righteousness!

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 101 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: *Hosanna to the Son of David, save us now, O Lord, for You are the only God of our salvation. Root out all hypocrisy and deceit from our hearts. Grant us humble faith in the truths of Your Word, that we might walk before you in peace and ever abide in the shelter of Your Church; for You live and reign with the Father 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	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1-9	
Monday	Hannah Prays for a Son—1 Samuel 1:1-18 St. Andrew, Apostle—John 1:35-42a	Philippians 2:19-30
Tuesday	The Prophet Samuel Is Born—1 Samuel 1:19—2:2	Philippians 3:1-16
Wednesday	Advent Midweek: Created from One Blood—Acts 17:16-34	John 2:18-22
Thursday	The Song of Hannah—1 Samuel 2:1-11	Philippians 3:17—4:3
Friday	The Lord Calls to the Boy Samuel—1 Samuel 2:12, 18-21; 3:1-20	Philippians 4:4-9
Saturday	The Day of the Lord—Malachi 4:1-6	Romans 15:4-13

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

<i>What is the Second Petition?</i> Thy kingdom come.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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 +
<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.	Second Grade +
<i>What is the Third Petition?</i> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	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, 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

Baptismal Birthdays: Kirstin Franklin (12/3), Kent Franklin, Anne Haga (12/4).

Wedding Anniversaries: George and Sue Kaminski (12/2), Kurt and Elsie Meyle (12/3).

Those in therapy: Karl Stemke and David Berger.

The sick:

All those recovering from the Coronavirus.

Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS; Lois Verge who is suffering with an infection.

Bettirae Weber, suffering with liver and bone cancer; Carl Duwe, who is hospitalized.

Jim Nitsche, Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Harlan Petersen, Jill Franklin, and Allison Witte in treatment for cancer.

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

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

<p>Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Hymns: 333, 336, 513, 621, 515, 348</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>December 6, 2020</p>
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