

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Third Sunday in Advent
December 12 through December 19, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 137: A Prayer as Captives in a Foreign Land—Psalm 137 is a lament of the children of Judah whose holy city and Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians because of Judah’s rebellion against the Lord. Psalm 137 captures the sadness of the children of Judah who had lost their kingdom and had been carried away captive. Yet in spite of this lament, they came to believe, in contrition and faith, that the Lord would return them to the land of promise according to His Word. This is our hope as well, even as we lament over mistakes and backslidings in our own lives. “How long will we sing the Lord’s son in a foreign land?” In our prayers we cry out to God to return us to His Word and to keep us faithful to our Lord as we await His return for us in glory. He will remember us during our earthly pilgrimage. He will take vengeance upon the enemies of the Gospel. He will vindicate His people for their confession of faith in Christ.

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: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People with My Mercy!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 7:18

**I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;
for to will is present with me,
but how to perform what is good I do not find.**

Psalm 137 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: How long will we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land? Teach us Your Word all the days of our earthly pilgrimage in a foreign land, that we may never forget Your promises but cling to You in contrition and faithfulness, 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	“Go and Tell John What You See and Hear”—Matthew 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	MIDWEEK: Pray for those Who Persecute You—Matt. 5:43-48	
Thursday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14	Ex 40:1-3, 16-21, 34-38
Friday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20	Isaiah 52:6-10
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Philippians 4:4-7

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

<i>What is the Fifth Petition?</i> And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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.	Second Grade +

<p><i>What is the Sixth Petition?</i> And lead us not into temptation.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> 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 Office of the Ministry: *The Lord's guidance and blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and Headmaster.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Katie Laubenstein, (12/13), Sue Kachelmeyer (12/15), Evan McMiller (12/16).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Brent and Evon Ingraham (12/16).*

Thanksgiving for Healing Mercies: *Jeremy LaFore for continued recovery from paralysis; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.*

The Sick: *Luther Gutknecht, uncle of Julie Goltermann, hospitalized after a fall; Walter Ikenberry in treatment for PANS and Lilly Seifferlein recovering from a severed finger, grandchildren of Jim and Cathy Verage; Doug Pom and Tom Pinzl recovering from hernia surgery; Jon Bruss recovering from surgery to correct an infection; Karen Leach, recovering from surgery for spinal compression fractures; Brett Arnold hospitalized and recovering from kidney transplant surgery; Luise Bollmeyer in continued care.*

Cancer Treatment: *Nancy Thiele, friend of Polly Joubert and Jon and Marty Bruss, diagnosed with acute leukemia, Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer), Jim Nitzsche (lung cancer); James Loker (liver cancer), Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).*

Hospice Care: *Fern Worfel, sister-in-law of Carol Bender*

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

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (stanzas 1-2)

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<p>Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent Hymns: 344, 346, 357, 352, 737, 619, 338 Deuteronomy 18:15-19: <i>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.</i> Philippians 4:4-7: <i>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.</i> John 1:19-28: <i>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.</i></p>	<p>December 19, 2021</p>
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