

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
November 27 through December 4, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Advent Meditations: St. Andrew, Apostle – During this first week of Advent our daily Bible narrative meditations will continue to focus on the patriarchs, particularly Jacob and his dealings with Laban. Our Advent midweek divine services throughout the season will focus upon four saints: St. Andrew, St. Stephen, St. John, and St. Thomas. Saints’ days in the Lutheran tradition especially highlight the amazing gifts that God worked through these sinful men and women by His grace. They also, during Advent, give us the opportunity to reflect upon how we are to live as Christians in this sin-darkened world as we look forward in hope to the Second Coming of Christ. “St. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was born in the Galilean village of Bethsaida. Originally a disciple of St. John the Baptist, Andrew then became the first of Jesus’ disciples (John 1:35-40). His name regularly appears in the Gospels near the top of the lists of the Twelve. It was he who first introduced his brother Simon to Jesus (John 1:41-42). He was, in a real sense, the first home missionary, as well as the first foreign missionary (John 12:20-22). Tradition says Andrew was martyred by crucifixion on a cross in the form of an X. In AD 357, his body is said to have been taken to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople and later removed to the cathedral of Amali in Italy. Centuries later, Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland. St. Andrew’s Day determines the beginning of the Western Church Year, since the First Sunday in Advent is always the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew’s Day.” – Excerpted from the Treasury of Daily Prayer.

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: Hosanna to the Son of David!

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 24 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, 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 1: The Triumphal Entry—Matthew 21:1-9	
Monday	Laban Agrees to Divide the Livestock with Jacob—Gen. 30:25-43	John 4:31-42
Tuesday	Jacob Flees from Laban—Genesis 31:1-21	John 4:43-54
Wednesday	Midweek: St. Andrew, Apostle —John 1:35-42a	Romans 10:8b-18
Thursday	Laban Pursues Jacob—Genesis 31:22-42	John 5:1-15
Friday	Laban’s Covenant with Jacob—Genesis 31:43-55	John 5:15-23
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? Thy kingdom come.	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 +

<i>What is the Third Petition?</i> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Preschool +
<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.	First Grade +
<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.	Third Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects 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 (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

Baptismal Anniversaries: *Patti Hasz (11/29); RJ Frerking, Aaron Piper (11/30); Kirstin Franklin (12/3).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Bob and Pat Rothe (11/27); George and Susan Kaminski (12/2).*

The Sick: *Mary Boehringer, suffering the effects of cancer treatment; Peyton Locklair, receiving chemotherapy for retinoblastoma; Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.*

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.

Collect for the Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle (November 30)

Almighty God, by Your grace the apostle Andrew obeyed the call of Your Son to be a disciple. Grant us also to follow the same Lord Jesus Christ in heart and life, 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

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

Hymns: 351, 345, 337, 348, 353, 621, 338

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 sustain and comfort us in the trials and hardships of life. It is a sure and certain hope.*

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!*