

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Third Sunday in Advent  
December 11 through December 18, 2022

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Advent Meditations: St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist** – This week’s Bible Stories turn to the narratives in the New Testament leading up to the birth of Christ. **Gabriel Appears to Zachariah** in the Temple while he is officiating as priest and announces to him that he and Elizabeth would be the parents of the forerunner of the Christ who would prepare His way. After six months, the Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary in the **Annunciation of Our Lord**, “announcing” that she would be the mother of the Son of God—the promised Christ, the Son of David, the Seed of Abraham, and Seed of the Woman—who would redeem us from sin, Satan, and death. In the **Visitation**, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth who is six months pregnant with John the Baptist. The Word of the Lord through the Angel Gabriel is confirmed. Mary confesses the Magnificat by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and both Elizabeth and John confess the faith with joy. The final story of the week is the **Nativity of St. John the Baptist**. John, who would prepare the way for Jesus, is born according to the Lord’s promise. His father Zachariah, a one-time questioner of the Lord’s Word, has his heart and lips opened by the Lord to confess his faith and announced that the child’s name would be John, which means the Lord is gracious. Against this backdrop of narratives, Wednesday’s Advent meditation celebrates the **Feast of St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist**. John, the son of Zebedee and brother of James the Elder, was one of the original Twelve called to be Apostles. In addition to his apostleship where he would bear witness to all the events of Jesus ministry, including especially his baptism, death, and resurrection, John was called to be the disciple who would take care of Mary after Jesus’ death and resurrection. He is referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” not because Jesus did not love all the disciples, but as a sign to us poor and lowly sinners who often doubt his love, that He loves us too. It is very appropriate during this season of Advent, in which we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s incarnation, that we meditate upon John’s words in the first chapter of his Gospel: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

## 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!

### 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 85 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord Jesus Christ, at Your coming in the flesh You sent Your messenger to prepare Your way before You. Grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready Your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at Your second coming to judge the world, we may be found acceptable in Your sight; 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	Advent 3: “Tell John What You See and Hear”—Matt. 11:2-11	
Monday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25	Daniel 9:20-27
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	2 Samuel 7:1-17
Wednesday	Midweek: St. John—John 21:20-25	1 John 1:1—2:2
Thursday	The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56	1 Samuel 2:1-11
Friday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Luke 1:57-66	Leviticus 26:40-45
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

What is the Fifth Petition?

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Preschool +

<p><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.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>What is the Sixth Petition?</i>  <b>And lead us not into temptation.</b></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 (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Katie Laubenstein, Bethany Christiansen (12/13), Sue Kachelmeyer (12/15), Evan McMiller, Kayla Kütemeier (12/16).

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

**The Sick:** Cyndi Ruhnaue recovering from hip replacement; Mary Boehringer, suffering the effects of cancer treatment; Bob Rothe, Pepton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**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.*

**Collect for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (December 27):**

*Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed in the doctrine of Your blessed apostle and evangelist John, may come to the light of everlasting life; 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)**

**344**

**Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 18, 2022**

**Hymns: 754, 357, 352, 818, 810, 343**

**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.*