

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
December 3 through December 10, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Advent means “coming.” It is the beginning of the Church Year. During Advent we “celebrate waiting.” No one likes to wait for what he really wants. As Christians we want to receive the full glory of our salvation in Christ our King. But we must wait. In a sense, Advent celebrates the cold, harsh, sober realities of life which we must endure before the resurrection of all flesh. We live in the time of faith’s struggle against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. God’s promises are the strength of faith by which we endure the struggle until our Lord’s return. Advent, therefore, celebrates living in hope of the fulfillment of God’s promises. As we prepare to celebrate His coming in the flesh, we look forward with certainty to His coming again in glory, even as we enjoy His coming to us NOW in the Holy Gospel and Sacraments. This was the same faith to which the Patriarchs of old were called and they lived their life in this faith. That which they beheld by faith we have the privilege of partaking of in the Sacrament in the blessed hope of the resurrection.

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: John 8:31b-32

If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

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 upon ourselves 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 glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; 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	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1-9	
Monday	Hannah Prays for a Son—1 Samuel 1:1-18	Philippians 2:12-18
Tuesday	The Prophet Samuel Is Born—1 Samuel 1:19—2:2	Philippians 2:19-30
Wednesday	Advent: Jesus Heals a Demoniac—Mark 5:1-20/Third Article	
Thursday	The Song of Hannah—1 Samuel 2:1-11	Philippians 3:1-16
Friday	The Lord Calls to the Boy Samuel—1 Samuel 2:12, 18-21; 3:1-20	Philippians 3:17—4:3
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

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 +
What is the Third Petition? 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: The Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

- The Baptismal Anniversaries:** Kirstin Franklin (12/3), Anne Haga, Kent Franklin (12/4), Paul Schneider, Mary Schneider, Thomas Haga, (12/7), Cathie Weber (12/8), Dane Petersen (12/9).
- The Sick:** George Kaminski recovering from pneumonia; Anna Steinhilb recovering from colon surgery; Chase (infant son of Del Duwe's grand-niece) hospitalized with seizures; Patty Rothe in rehab.
- Those in Cancer Treatment:** Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, Michael (friend of the Steinhilbs), and Gabby Hartwig.
- Those in Hospice Care:** Lyle and Jan Wollin; Sue Everhardt (Gil Leon's family friend)
- Those Who Mourn:** the family & friends who mourn the death of Kathy Miller.

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: 513, 336, 337, 514, 355, 508 (St. 1, 5-7)</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 sustain and comfort us in the trials and hardships of life. It is a sure and certain hope.</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 10, 2023</p>
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