

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of the First Sunday in Advent
November 30 through December 7, 2025*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Advent Life Is One of Contrition and Repentance — Advent means coming. It is the season of anticipation for our Lord's return in glory. To be prepared for His coming and to rightly celebrate His nativity, we need to understand and believe in how He comes to us NOW. In His Word, Jesus is present. We need Him, even though we so often live life as if we don't. By His Word He comes to us to show us our need. By His Word He calls us to repentance, so that by His Word He might comfort us with His forgiveness and restore our faith and hope in Him. The life of daily contrition (sorrow for sin) and repentance (turning away from self-reliance to Christ for life and salvation) is the proper focus for our advent meditations that we might rightly celebrate His birth and be prepared for His return in glory.

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: Let Us Cast Off the Works of Darkness and Put on the Armor of Light!

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 122 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 122: Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice before You, O Lord God, for by Your Word of truth you have made us members of Your holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive all sins to all whose trust is in Jesus Christ. Grant us grace to abide in the love of Your Word and in purity of faith and piety of life, even to the end of our days, 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	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80
Evening	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Advent 1: The Triumphal Entry—Matthew 21:1-11 St. Andrew, Apostle—John 1:35-42a	
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: Signs of the End of the Age—Luke 17:20-37	2 Peter 3:3b-9
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: Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13

Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Second and Third Petitions

<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 +
<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 +

How is God's will done?
 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: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and 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.

Collect for St. Andrew, Apostle

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...” (See LSB p. 294)

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

Baptismal anniversaries: RJ Frerking, Aaron Piper (11/30); Kirstin Franklin (12/3); Kent Franklin, Anne Haga (12/4) Dennis Burk (12/6).

Wedding anniversaries: George and Sue Kaminski (12/2).

Thanksgiving for remission from cancer: Laurie Roe

The sick: Jon Bruss, undergoing a heart procedure on Wednesday; Anne Fox (Betsy Banasik's sister) who is hospitalized; Geri Zaretzke, in weakened health due to heart failure; Shirley Weber, recovering after a recent hospitalization; Richard Leach (Peggy Lundberg's father) in rehab; Carol Bender continuing rehab at her assisted living; Mark Anderson (brother of Lynn Leider), in rehab after a fall; Kevin Kehres, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Melissa Brendel, recovering from surgery; Chrissy Artru (friend of the Duesslers), undergoing treatment for kidney transplant rejection.

In cancer treatment: Mary O'Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothes) recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer and awaiting further test results; Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore), diagnosed with a cancerous lesion and awaiting further results; Loretta Lampen, Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those in hospice care: Barb Wieting (wife of Rev. Ken Wieting), Fred Theilacker (Fritz Theilacker's father)

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (Stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

Hymns: 347, 344, 354, 346, 349, 342

Isaiah 11:1-10: The Messiah, or Son of David, would descend from the “stump of Jesse” (David's father and part of the tribe of Judah). Although this royal family appeared to be like a tree that had been cut down and in which there was no longer the hope of the Messiah, yet the Messiah, “the Rod (or branch) from the stem of Jesse” would, nevertheless, “grow out of his roots.” The true Messiah or Christ, as His title indicated, would be anointed with more than mere oil; He would be anointed with the Holy Spirit Himself—the Spirit of wisdom, understanding counsel, might, knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord.” By His faithful sacrifice, the “Rod of Jesse” would establish the righteousness of God for the salvation of all people upon the “Rod of the cross.” Through His righteousness peace and reconciliation with God is established for all sinners and the whole of God's creation shall benefit from His saving work.

Romans 15:4-13: The Scriptures of the entire Old Testament were ultimately written to call us to repentance for sin and give us “patience and comfort” through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that we might have the hope of salvation from sin. This message of comfort and hope is not for the Jews only, but also for the Gentiles. Christ is “the God of hope” who, by His Holy Spirit, gives hope to all Christians in their struggle with sin and the adversities of life.

Matthew 3:1-12: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” was the message of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Christ. This phrase summarized the content of John's preaching. Repentance is that unique Word that refers to how God's Law shows us our sin and how much we need a Savior. When we “repent” it means that we have heard God's Word, agree with its judgment and are turning from our sin to faith in Christ for forgiveness and help. John used the Law to crush and condemn so that He might proclaim forgiveness through the coming Savior to those who, by his preaching, were now repentant. The preaching of repentance creates a broken and contrite heart that is hungry for the Gospel. John's austere and rugged dress and diet were signs of the kind of message that he was called to preach. The Sadducees, out of whom the priests came, didn't want to hear this message because they did not even believe in life after death, but rather considered religion as a means to obtain power and position in society. The Pharisees believed in life after death, but saw it as a reward for their own righteousness and obedience to the Law. Everyone needs to hear the call to repentance. There are no exceptions. There is none righteous. All need Christ, the Savior of Sinners. The only true “children of Abraham” are those who hear the call to repentance and believe the promise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God raises them up by the call to repentance and the preaching of forgiveness for Jesus' sake. In this way, John was the faithful forerunner of Christ and prepared for His coming.