

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of the Second Sunday in Advent

December 7 through December 14, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Repentance Is at the Heart of Advent — “I’m tired of hearing talk about our sin!” This is often the response of those who hear the call to repentance. “Sin is a downer! Can’t we get on with something else?” Yes, we can go on. That’s what repentance is all about—going on, confessing sin, turning from it to Christ, finding our relief, comfort, and strength in His forgiveness. The message of repentance is not only the knowledge of our sin, but also the proclamation that there is nothing that Jesus hasn’t done to save you from your sin and to give you new life and freedom now! The message of repentance always brings relief when it finds its rest in Christ, our righteousness.

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: Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Timothy 6:8, 10a

Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Psalms 72:1-7 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 72: Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96
Evening	81	83	86	87	90	93	94	97

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Advent 2: The Ministry of John the Baptist—Matthew 3:1-12	
Monday	Esau Comes to Meet Jacob—Genesis 32:1-21	John 5:24-30
Tuesday	Jacob Wrestles with God—Genesis 32:22-32	John 5:31-47
Wednesday	Midweek: The Coming of the Son of Man—Luke 21:5-24	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Thursday	Jacob and Esau Meet—Genesis 33:1-11	John 6:1-14
Friday	Jacob Returns to Bethel—Genesis 35:1-15	John 6:15-21
Saturday	Advent 3: Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-11

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Fourth Petition

<i>What is the Fourth Petition?</i> Give us this day our daily bread.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.	First Grade +
<i>What is meant by daily bread?</i> Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.	Second Grade +

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Thomas Haga, Mary Schneider, Paul Schneider (12/7); Cathie Weber (12/8); Dane Petersen (12/9).

Wedding anniversaries: Brian and Rachel Galles (12/9).

Military: John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham, Katelyn Wittenburg (Army National Guard); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither, and Christian McMiller (Army).

The sick: Terry O’Neill, hospitalized in Waukesha; Carol Bender in rehab; David Jones (nephew of the Koplings), who is hospitalized; Jon Bruss, recovering from a heart procedure; 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; 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), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); 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).

Those who mourn: the family and friends of Fred Theilacker (Fritz Theilacker’s father)

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

Hymn of the Week

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

344

Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

Hymns: 350, 345, 511, 357, 936, 339

Isaiah 35:1-10: The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, God in human flesh, who will bring about joy and gladness through His work and message of redemption. When Christ comes to suffer, die, rise again to life, and preach forgiveness of sins, then “eyes will be opened...ears will be unstopped...the lame will leap for joy...the mute will sing...and the weak will be made strong” in the love of their Lord. This wonderful prophecy of Isaiah not only foretells Christ’s coming in His work of redemption but especially highlights how the preaching of the Gospel will usher in the glorious kingdom of God, in which the ransomed or redeemed of the Lord will find eternal delight in His salvation.

James 5:7-11: James encourages us to wait patiently for the Second Coming of Christ. Suffering can bring discouragement and disillusionment with life. Out of such discouragement can come the “grumbling of unbelief” against one another in the household of faith. The example of Job teaches us that God’s will for us when we suffer, is that we might learn to walk by faith in His coming. The “end intended by the Lord” is that we learn to believe that He is, indeed, “very compassionate and merciful.” Apart from the sufferings that we endure, we cannot really know the love of our Lord who suffered for us.

Matthew 11:2-15: Everyone needs comfort and strength from the Word of God, especially ministers who are called to preach the Word. John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus’ response to this question took John and his disciples back to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He would give sight to the blind, the lame would walk, the lepers would be cleansed, the deaf would hear, the dead would be raised up, and the poor would have the Gospel preached to them. “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see.” The content of Jesus’ preaching (repentance and the forgiveness of sins) and the signs that He performed, not only fulfilled the Scriptures and proclaimed Him to be the Messiah, but they also gave hope and encouragement to John and his disciples. Now that John’s ministry of preparation was ending, his disciples would be directed to Jesus as the fulfillment of their hope and the source of eternal comfort.