

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21 through December 28, 2025*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “**Creation and redemption are equally impossible** for man to accomplish, but not for God. ‘With God nothing will be impossible,’ not even the incarnation of His Son for the salvation of His fallen world. He is the actor, the Savior, and the Lord, who descends to our human flesh and joins Himself to our weaknesses, becoming like us in every way, except without sin, so that He might take our sin to Himself. When His Word sounds forth to announce His salvation, it can only be received and believed, for it carries with it all the saving benefits it proclaims. Mary received this Word, and the life of the world was conceived in her womb. Every Christian receives this Word too, through the call of the Gospel, and it brings to us the same Christ and the same salvation who was born of Mary. Therefore, our confession of faith is the same as Mary’s, “Let it be to me according to your word.” — Excerpted from Lutheran Catechesis, p. 90, used by permission.

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: His Name Is Jesus, for He Will Save His People from Their Sins!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 1:14

And 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.

Psalm 98 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 98: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, who of Your great goodness and mercy has caused Your only-begotten Son to become incarnate, that we through Him might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death; we pray You, enlighten our hearts that we may be truly thankful for His gracious incarnation and birth, that we may be comforted by the same in all time of tribulation and temptation, and in the end receive Your everlasting salvation; through Your dear Son 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 4: Christ’s Birth Foretold to Joseph—Matt. 1:18-25 St. Thomas, Apostle—John 20:24-29	
Monday	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	David’s Son Will Build the House of the Lord—2 Samuel 7:1-16	Isaiah 52:7-10
Wednesday	The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-20	Titus 2:11-14
Christmas	The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18	Hebrews 1:1-12
Friday	St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:60	Matthew 23:34-39
Saturday	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-25	1 John 1:1—2:2

Catechism: Creed—Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed? And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,	First Grade +
That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, You Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. Stephen

Heavenly Father, in the midst of our sufferings for the sake of Christ grant us grace to follow the example of the first martyr, Stephen, that we also may look to the One who suffered and was crucified on our behalf and pray for those who do us wrong; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. John

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.

Pray the “O Antiphon” and appropriate stanza of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357) appointed for the Day

Sunday, December 21: “O Dayspring” – Stanza 6

Monday, December 22: “O King of the Nations” – Stanza 7

Tuesday, December 23: “O Emmanuel” – Stanza 1

Daily Themes for Prayer — from LSB p. 294

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Ashley Swiskoski (12/21); Maggie Gehlbach, Marc Schneider (12/25); Angie Clark, Lee Neujahr (12/27)

Wedding anniversaries: Paul and Judith Woehrmann (12/27).

The sick: Deaconess Sherry Prowatzke, recovering from pneumonia and pulmonary embolisms; Terry O’Neill, Carol Bender, Mark Anderson, and Richard Leach in rehab; Bob and Geri Zaretzke, recently hospitalized and recovering at home; Anne Fox (Betsy Banasik’s sister) who is hospitalized; Kevin Kehres, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Chrissy Artru (friend of the Duesslers), undergoing treatment for kidney transplant rejection.

In cancer treatment: Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Brusses), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothses), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

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

Hymn of the Week

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

357

Looking forward to the First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

Hymns: 874, 969, 389, 517, 370, 384, 387

Isaiah 63:7-14: The prophet speaks of the loving kindness of the Lord and of all that the Lord had done in grace for His people on the basis of His promises. By His promises He made them His people. By His promise, the “angel of His presence” dwelt with them. By His promises they were redeemed. By His promises He remembered them in their weaknesses and failings, called them to repentance, and bestowed the gift of His Holy Spirit. As the Lord has acted in love for His children of old, so He continues to act for us.

Galatians 4:4-7: The Son of God was born a man, under God’s Law, to redeem us from the Law’s demands by fulfilling those demands in our place. By Christ’s redemption, we are adopted and become the “sons of God” through faith in Him. “The fullness of the time” refers to how the constellation of promises in Sacred Scripture, combined with God’s direction of human history, came into focus and were fulfilled—at “just the right time”—in the birth of God’s Son.

Matthew 2:13-23: It is evident that our Lord’s guardian, Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a godly man who was led by faith in the sacred Scriptures. The Lord spoke to him in dreams through the words of the prophets. By the Lord’s word he knew what to do. By faith in the Lord’s word he acted. “Out of Egypt I called My Son” was a promise from the book of Numbers and the prophet Hosea. When Joseph sensed the danger of Herod’s murderous intentions and received a vision from the Lord in a dream to flee to Egypt, he knew, on the basis of the Scriptures, that it was the right thing to do. Even his dreams were confirmed by the testimony of Scripture. It is the same for us. We know what to believe; we know what to do; and we know God’s will is on the basis of the Sacred Scriptures. Even the capacity to cope with the horrendous evils of life is made possible by God’s word that describes the very tribulation that we are called to pass through. When Herod’s soldiers slaughtered the innocent children of Bethlehem and Judea, the faithful were called to remember what the prophet Jeremiah had spoken: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they were no more.” It is not as if this passage of Scripture would take away all their sorrow; instead, this passage of Scripture would strengthen them to cope with unspeakable suffering by looking to God’s Word for strength and to God’s Son who bore such suffering to save us and give us hope in the midst of death and every sorrow.