# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*
*For the First Week in Advent*
*November 29, 2026, through December 6, 2026*

***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: The King Comes to Save!*

***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 80:1-7 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.***

***Prayer on Psalm 80:*** *O Lord, preserve Your Church in Your Word and in the faithful confession of Your name. Grant us to be Your faithful vine for the Church's salvation and as a witness to Your love before a fallen world. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morning | 117, 118 | 119:1-24 | 119:49-72 | 119:89-112 | 119:137-152 | 122, 123 | 125, 126 | 128, 129 |
| Evening | 120, 121 | 119:25-48 | 119:73-88 | 119:113-136 | 119:153-176 | 124 | 127 | 130 |

***Bible Readings for the Week:***

| | **Bible Narrative** | **Second Reading** |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | **The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Mark 11:1-10** | |
| Monday | **St. Andrew, Apostle—**John 1:35-42a | Romans 10:8b-18 |
| Tuesday | The Family of Elimelech and Naomi—Ruth 1:1-22 | Philippians 1:1-11 |
| Wednesday | **Advent: Ruth Gleans Grain in the Field of Boaz**—Ruth 2:1-23 | **Philippians 1:12-26** |
| Thursday | Boaz Decides to Redeem Ruth—Ruth 3:1-18 | Phil. 1:27—2:4 |
| Friday | Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption—Ruth 4:1-22 | Philippians 2:5-11 |
| Saturday | Comfort My People—Isaiah 40:1-11 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 |

***The Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Second and Third Petitions***

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|---|---|
| *What is the Second Petition?*<br>**Thy kingdom come.** | Preschool + |
| *What does this mean?*<br>The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer,<br>but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. | First Grade + |
| *How does God's kingdom come?*<br>God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit,<br>so that by His grace we believe His holy Word<br>and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. | Second Grade + |
| *What is the Third Petition?*<br>**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** | Preschool + |
| *What does this mean?*<br>The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer,<br>but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. | First Grade + |

| | |
|---|---|
| *How is God's will done?*<br>God's will is done<br>when He breaks and hinders<br>every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature,<br>which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come;<br>and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.<br>This is His good and gracious will. | Third Grade + |

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

***Catechism Prayer for the Week on the Second Petition***

*Heavenly Father, Your kingdom comes to us wherever the Gospel of Jesus is preached and His sacraments are administered. Through these gifts You give us Your Holy Spirit and create faith in our hearts. We give thanks to You for these gifts. We give thanks to You for the promise that Jesus will come again in glory on the Last Day to give us all the fullness of His kingdom. Forgive us for failing to pray for the coming of Your kingdom. By Your Word and Spirit, reign in our hearts and in Your Church. Through the promises of the Gospel, continue to give us Your Holy Spirit, so that by Your grace we believe Your holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and forever after in eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

***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.*

***Daily Themes for Prayer — "Let us pray…"***

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|---|---|
| ***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:** *Aaron Piper, RJ Frerking (11/30); Kirstin Franklin (12/3); Anne Haga, Kent Franklin (12/04).*
**Wedding anniversaries:** *George and Sue Kaminski (12/2).*
**The sick:** *Polly Joubert recovering after open heart surgery; Jerry Freckmann, Bob Corso, and Sandy Lueck recovering from hospitalization.*
**In cancer treatment:** *Kevin Riemer, Terry O'Neill, Ron Schaefer, Barbara Galis, Bob Rothe, Michael Piper, Michael Gehl, Mary O'Flyng, Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.*
**In hospice care:** *Rev. William Ruhbusch (Mark Ruhbusch's uncle).*

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

***Hymn of the Week*** ***"Prepare the Royal Highway"*** ***343***

***Looking forward to The Second Sunday in Advent*** ***December 6, 2026***

***Hymns: 346, 344, 343, 354, 820, 333***

***Isaiah 40:1-11:*** *750 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Christ. John was like a voice crying in a spiritual wilderness, calling sinners to repentance, and proclaiming the comfort of sins forgiven to all God's people. By His preaching of Law and Gospel he leveled the high mountains of pride and self-righteousness and filled up the valleys of contrite humility and unworthiness with God's mercy. Such preaching not only prepares the way for the Lord's coming, it remains the means by which the Lord comes to us for our salvation now.*

***2 Peter 3:8-14:*** *The Apostle Peter teaches us to wait patiently for the Second Coming of Christ by reminding us that the Lord is not slack concerning His promises to return. Though He seems to delay, we should not be lulled to sleep by this because "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." We are called to live in hope, looking forward to the new heaven and the new earth.*

***Mark 1:1-8:*** *Mark's Gospel begins with a summary of the ministry of John the Baptist. John came, according to the prophets, as a messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord's coming. He came to baptize, "preaching a baptism for the remission of sins." He proclaimed Jesus the true "Kinsman Redeemer" by saying that he was unworthy to stoop down and loose Jesus' sandal. The sign of the "bare foot" signifies that Jesus is the One long foretold who would exercise the authority to redeem us as our near kinsman, crushing the devil's head with His heel. By virtue of His redeeming work, Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to us.*