

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Advent
December 2, 2018 through December 8, 2018

Catechesis Notes for the Week: Advent—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 calls to mind 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. “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! ‘Christ IS near!’ we hear it say! Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!”

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 catechism and hymn of the week.

Theme of the Week: The Lord Comes Even Now

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Verse: Matthew 21:9

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Psalm 12

Daily Readings

Sunday, December 2 – Matthew 21:1-9 *The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*

Monday, December 3 – Matthew 6:5-15 *Jesus Teaches Us to Pray in the Sermon on the Mount*

Tuesday, December 4 – John 17:1-26 *Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer*

Wednesday, December 5 – Luke 21:25-36 *Watch and Pray*

Thursday, December 6 – Matthew 26:36-45 *Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane*

Friday, December 7 – Luke 1:5-25 *Gabriel Appears to Zechariah*

Saturday, December 8 – Look ahead to Sunday’s readings

The Catechism – The Lord’s Prayer: Second and Third Petitions

What is the Second Petition? 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.

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.

What is the Third Petition? What does this mean?

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.

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.

Prayers

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.

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	(Rev) Steven & Cynthia Schumacher	Richard Planck
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	Ken & Joanne Jones	Vic Lambrecht
(Rev) President Matthew Harrison	Susan Lutz	Marleen Muenster
(Rev) President Richard Snow	Betty Rasmussen	(Rev) Bryan Drebes
The Seminaries of our Synod	Raymond Stevens	Don Bruckner
Our Sister Churches	Louise Sullivan	Barb Grage
The United States of America	Kyle Einspahr	Maxine Ashton
President Donald Trump	Annie Carbullido	Jim Jorgensen
Governor "Pete" Ricketts	Jody Ragan	Joanne Dobrusky
Mayor Jean Stothert	Paul Luedeman	Char Stokey
Josh & Coco Lange	Stephen Grobeck	The family and friends of John Gehrig
David & Valerie Federwitz & family	Doug Pietramale	(Rev) Andrew Gerike

Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn of the Season: Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332

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| 1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth. | 2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh. | 3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne. |
| 4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began. | 5. God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown. | 6. For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul. |
| 7. From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides. | 8. Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity. | |

Looking forward to the week of the Second Sunday in Advent:
Malachi 4:1-6 Romans 15:4-13 St. Luke 21:25-36