
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The First Week of Advent

December 1-7, 2015

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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Congregant" (C). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Look up! Your Redemption Draws Nigh!

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:22

L For as in Adam all die,

C even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Morning	119:89-112	119:137-152	122,123	125,126	128,129	131,132	135
Evening	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133,134	136

PSALM PRAYER

L Heavenly Father, the idols of our flesh cannot satisfy the deepest yearnings of our hearts. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we might ever entrust ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ, believe in His precious Gospel, and confess His holy name in the face of every adversity. Christ alone is our goodness. Help us to believe that apart from Him our goodness is nothing, but that in Christ we have eternal righteousness and the fullness of eternal joy; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

<p>L What is the Third Article?</p> <p>C 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.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.</p>	First Grade +
<p>C But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p> <p>In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.</p> <p>On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.</p> <p>This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

DAILY READINGS

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
Tuesday	Elisha feeds his people	2 Kings 4:38-44	Hosea 7-8
Wednesday	Elisha and the floating axe head	2 Kings 6:1-17	Hosea 9
Thursday	Elisha escapes the Arameans	2 Kings 6:8-23	Hosea 10
Friday	Look-ahead to Sunday's Epistle	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Hosea 11-12
Saturday	Look-ahead to Sunday's Gospel	Luke 3:1-6	Hosea 13
Sunday	Famine in besieged Samaria	2 Kings 6:24-7:20	Hosea 14
Monday	Jehu, the avenger of blood	2 Kings 9:1-37	Joel 1

PRAYERS

Collect for the First Sunday of Advent:

- L** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Tuesday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling sin.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for single persons, that they may be at peace in their lives and realize God's plan for them.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*
- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Out of thanks, for all of the immense blessings our Lord showers upon us every day in body and life.

Our shut-ins, that they may be comforted in their loneliness by your gracious presence.

The congregation of Christ in Grand Island, NE, as they continue to issue calls to fill their vacant pastor position.

Pastor Steve Kruschel of Geneva and Sutton, NE, as he and his family consider a call to Eden Prairie, MN.

Pastor Earle Treptow, as he and his family make the transition to Mequon, WI after accepting the call to serve as professor at the Seminary.

Pastor Phillip Hirsch, as he begins the process of taking over the duties of District President of the Nebraska District.

Marinda Ledermann, wife of seminary student, Gunnar Ledermann, who continues to recover after suffering a stroke cause by cranial bleeding.

Easton Haas, as he celebrates his birthday this week.

Spencer and Abby Hansen, out of thanks for the precious gift of a healthy baby girl, Tilly Louise, this past week, and that the Lord watch over Tilly until he makes her his own through the life-giving waters of baptism.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

C In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✙), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

C In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✙), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY FOR ADVENT 2

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | CW 16



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

¹ Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✙), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"