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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Second Week of Advent*

*December 8-15, 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: *The Son of Man Will Come with Great Power and Glory!***

### INVOCATION

**L** In the name of the Father, and of the Son  $\Phi$ , and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### APOSTLES' CREED

### VERSE

*2 Peter 1:21*

**L** Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man,

**C** but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### 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	137,138	140,141	144	147	148	1,2	24
Evening	139	142,143	145	146	149,150	3	25,110

### PSALM PRAYER

**L** Lord Jesus, You are robed in majesty and strength; Your decrees are trustworthy and faithful. Grant us the gift of Your Holy Spirit that we might ever confess Your holy name and be clothed with Your eternal righteousness for our salvation, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

<p><b>L</b> What is the Address to the Lord's Prayer?</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>Our Father in heaven.</b></p>	<p><i>Preschool +</i></p>
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.</b></p>	<p><i>First Grade +</i></p>
<p><b>L</b> What is the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer?</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>Hallowed be your name.</b></p>	<p><i>Preschool +</i></p>
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.</b></p>	<p><i>Second Grade +</i></p>
<p><b>L</b> How is God's name kept holy?</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>God's name is kept holy when his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!</b></p> <p><b>But whoever teaches and lives contrary to God's Word dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, dear Father in heaven!</b></p>	<p><i>Third Grade +</i></p>

DAILY READINGS

	Bible Stories for the Family	Through the Bible in Two Years
<b>Tuesday</b>	The destruction of Ahab's house 2 Kings 10:1-17	Joel 2
<b>Wednesday</b>	The destruction of the prophet's of Baal 2 Kings 10:18-36	Joel 3
<b>Thursday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Old Testament Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-17	Amos 1
<b>Friday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Epistle Philippians 4:4-7	Amos 2
<b>Saturday</b>	Look-ahead to Sunday's Gospel Luke 3:7-18	Amos 3
<b>Sunday</b>	Athaliah and Joash 2 Kings 11:1-21	Amos 4-5
<b>Monday</b>	Joash repairs the Temple 2 Kings 12:1-16	Amos 6

PRAYERS

*Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent:*

- L** Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; 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.*

*Donna Haas, as she celebrates her birthday this week.*

*Travis & Kaysie Haas, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**© 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup>

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 3

Arise, O Christian People | CW 14

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian Pre - ple! Pre -  
 2 Pre - pare hum - ble my way be - fore him; Pre -  
 3 The - re - fore my heart and low - ly sus; God  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn

pare your - selves to - day. Pre - to greet the  
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -  
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in  
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -

Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To  
 fend him, This great, heav'n - ly guest. Make  
 ter - ror you This haugh - ty soul shall lie. The  
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From

us by grace a - lone The truth and  
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly  
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's  
 stall and man - ger low Come now to

light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 in - vi - ta - tion makes true prep - a -  
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es

heav - en ing, To all the world is shown.  
 bas - tion - ly His path e - ven lay.  
 glad - ly And forth is the Lord's de - light.  
 your

<sup>1</sup> 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.'"