
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the First Sunday in Advent—Ad Te Levavi
November 29–December 4, 2016*

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 “Group” (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul!

Catechesis Notes for the Week—Advent—Advent means “coming.” It is the beginning of the Church Year. “Here in late November, we are in the middle of a season of dying. The flowers are frozen. The gardens are all gone. Gone are the greens and blues of summer. Here to stay are the grey days and long nights of winter. Yet in the middle of nature’s dying, we experience a Church that is thriving! In the Church’s year, all is fresh and new as we await the birth of the Word made flesh. In nature, we see more darkness than daylight. But in the Church, we watch with wide-open eyes as the Light of the World dawns in the darkness. In nature, we come face to face with the stubborn fact that all things pass away. But in the Church, we celebrate the coming of Christ who makes all things new!”

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE

1 John 3:2

G Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

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.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	125,126	128,129	131,132	135	137,138	140,141	144
Evening	127	130	133,134	136	139	142,143	145

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, ‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’”



PSALM PRAYER

L Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Address and First Petition

<p>L What is the Address to the Lord's Prayer?</p> <p>C Our Father in heaven.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C 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.</p>	First Grade +
<p>L What is the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer?</p> <p>C Hallowed be your name.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>L How is God's name kept holy?</p> <p>C 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!</p> <p>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!</p>	Third Grade +
<p>Prayer on the Address to the Lord's Prayer:</p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism, we became Your dear children and You became our dear Father. You have given us every gift of salvation through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for Jesus' sake have made to us many great and precious promises. We thank You for the gift of forgiveness, for clothing us with the righteousness of Christ, and for making us joint heirs with Your Son of eternal life. Forgive us for doubting Your tender love for us and for not trusting that we are Your dear children in Jesus. Give us confidence in Your Word, boldness to call upon You in prayer for all our needs, and the joy of being Your dearly loved and forgiven children; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	
<p>Prayer on the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer:</p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, You hallow Your name among us when Your Word is taught in its truth and purity and when we, as Your dear children, also lead holy lives according to it. We give thanks to You for the gift of Your Word; for our pastors, parents, and others who teach it; and for the holy lives of all Your faithful Christians who live according to it. Forgive us for the many ways in which we profane Your holy name among us by failing to teach Your Word in its truth and purity, to pray for our pastors and teachers, or to lead holy lives. Protect us from false doctrine and evil living. Help all who are called to teach and preach Your Word to do so with faithfulness, and grant us to receive Your Word rightly that our lives may be made holy by it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

	Weekly Scripture Readings*		Through the Confessions in One Year
	Old Testament	New Testament	
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25	Large Catechism [LC] IV:71-V (Sacrament of the Altar): 7
Tuesday	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12	LC V:8-30
Wednesday	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25	LC V:31-48
Thursday	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	1 Peter 3:1-22	LC V:49-74
Friday	Isaiah 8:9-9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19	LC V:75-87
Saturday	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14	-----
Sunday	Isaiah 12:12-27a, 33-34	2 Peter 1:1-21	-----

* *The New "Weekly Scripture Readings" follows the Daily Lectionary found in "Treasury of Daily Prayer." We are picking up this Lectionary mid-way near the end of the Church Year, so the start may seem abrupt. The Lectionary will "reset" on November 30, the First Sunday in Advent.*

PRAYERS

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent:

L 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.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: 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 our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: 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.

Friday: 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.

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 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.

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.

Jim Cantrell and Easton Haas, as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

Shauna Reinsch, as she celebrates the anniversary of her confirmation this week.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

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

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

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.

² 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.'"

ADVENT

2

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
 Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

For background information on this hymn, see this past week's bulletin insert.