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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Week of the Third Sunday in Advent—Gaudete*

*December 12-18, 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: Rejoice in the Lord, Always!**

**Catechesis Notes for the Week—Joseph, the Guardian of Jesus, and Christian Vocation (Read Matthew 1:18-25)—** Joseph, the Guardian of Jesus as he is often called, had a difficult vocation. He was called to be Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father. This calling meant a life of suffering and self-denial. This is always what true faith calls us to: a life of sacrificial love in which we deny ourselves. This is the shape of our lives as Christians because our life is lived by faith in the God and Savior who lived in selfless love for us. The Child conceived in Mary's womb was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary was not an adulteress. His name would be called "Jesus" because He is the Lord who would save His people from their sins by becoming one with them in their flesh and blood. All this was done to fulfill the Scriptures, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel." This means that God is with us in the poverty and humiliation of our human condition in order to redeem us by the sacrifice of Himself. Joseph had no strength to fulfill his vocation within himself, but he was strengthened by the Holy Spirit through the promises of the Scriptures and the message of God's selfless love for him and for all his people. This is our strength too in our vocation. The Gospel not only saves us from our sins, but it also strengthens and keeps us in the love of Christ in the earthly vocations to which our Lord has called us.

### INVOCATION

*The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.<sup>1</sup>*

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

**G** Amen.

### APOSTLES' CREED

### VERSE

*1 Timothy 6:8, 10a*

**G** Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content...For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.'"



## 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
<b>Morning</b>	24	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90
<b>Evening</b>	25,110	40,67	85,91	14,16	126,62	130,16	80,72

## PSALM PRAYER

**L** O Lord Jesus Christ, at Your first coming You sent Your messenger to prepare Your way before You. Grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready Your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at Your second coming, to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in Your sight; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Fourth Petition*

<p><b>L</b> What is the Fourth Peition?</p> <p><b>C</b> Give us today our daily bread.</p>	Preschool +
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.</p>	First Grade +
<p><b>L</b> What, then, is meant by daily bread?</p> <p><b>C</b> Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><b>Prayer on the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:</b></p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, You generously give daily bread to us and even to all evil people without our prayers. You richly and daily provide us with everything that we need to support us in our body and life. Lead us to realize this, that we might receive our daily bread with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, teach us to trust in You for daily bread and, according to Your good and gracious will, give us what we truly need to support us in our body and life, including food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. All this we ask 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	
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 29:1-14	Jude 1-25	Large Catechism [LC] Augsburg Confession [AC] XIII:1–XVII:5
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 29:15–30:14	Revelation 1:1-20	AC XVIII:1–XX 11
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 30:15-26	Revelation 2:1-29	AC XX:12–40
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 30:27–31:9	Revelation 3:1-22	AC XXI:1–XXII:12
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 32:1-20	Revelation 4:1-11	AC XXIII:1-26
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 33:1-24	Revelation 5:1-14	-----
<b>Sunday</b>	Micah 1:1-7:20	Revelation 6:1-17	-----

\* *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 Third Sunday in Advent:*

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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***

*Our District President, Pr. Phil Hirsch and his family, after their house caught on fire.*

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

*The Darby family, as they deal with trouble and hardship in their lives.*

*Randy Kahle, as he continues to deal with health complications.*

*Judah Seelow, Maria Lange, and Brent Meyer, as they celebrate their birthdays 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.<sup>2</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***

**G** In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.<sup>2</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.

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<sup>2</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.'"

# 12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 pris - on held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.

Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.