

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Gaudete (Advent III) – December 13, 2020

Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 111

Verse of the Month

Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (LSB 356)

Reading from Holy Scripture

Members may choose...

- *Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children’s The Story Bible (CPH)*
- *Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB, p. 299-304)*

Looking forward to Rorate Coeli (Advent IV)

Monday: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Tuesday: Philippians 4:4-7

Wednesday: Luke 1:39-56 (alt)

Thursday: ***John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah***

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).

Catechism for the Week: Fifth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer

What is the Fifth Petition? And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Prayers:

Collect for the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

O Lord God, heavenly Father, it behooves us to thank You that first instituted by St. John the Baptist the blessed and grace-giving Sacrament of Baptism and have caused us also to receive that Sacrament, in which You have promised us forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life for the sake of Your beloved Son, Christ Jesus. We beseech You to sustain us in such confidence in Your grace and mercy, that we may never doubt, but in various tribulations take comfort in it. Grant us also by Your Holy Spirit that we may avoid sin and remain in the innocence which we receive by Baptism, and whenever we may fall and in our human weakness cannot rise again, that we may not remain lying in sin, but may

by true repentance turn away from it and take comfort again in Your promise, and so by Your grace obtain eternal salvation. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Bill Heck, Kathy Foat, Sue Pokora

Lord's Prayer

Morning Prayer

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 Prayer

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.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Month

Savior of the Nations Come (LSB 332/TLH 95)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Augsburg Confession p. 56-63

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (*CPH*)

Hymns for next week

LSB 333-356-347/621/346-357