

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Gaudete (Advent III) – December 17th, 2023

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 111

Verse of the Month

Luke 1:35 “And [Gabriel] answered and said to [Mary], ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*LSB 357/TLH 62*)

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 Caeli (Advent IV)

Monday: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Tuesday: Philippians 4:4-7

Wednesday: John 1:19-28

Thursday: 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 (Joh 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: Sixth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer

What is the Sixth Petition? And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

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, Betty Beierle, Ronald Baumgart, Carrie Strueder, Gail Andrich

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

Creator of the Stars of Night (*LSB 351*)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Augsburg Confession p. 73-86

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (*CPH*)