

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Third Week of Advent

December 15, 2024, through December 22, 2024

Life Thoughts-- “Speak tenderly” in Isaiah 40:1-2 is literally “speak to the heart.” More than nice-sounding words, all of the Good News encapsulated in the first and second coming of Jesus speaks powerfully to those with struggling and burdened hearts. The life issues give us opportunity to speak this Good News to matters of the heart, especially those considered “controversial” and “divisive.” *Prayer: Thank You for touching our hearts with the Good News! Help us share it with all who deal with matters of the heart. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Philippians 4:4-5

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

Read or Chant Psalm 85

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Dec. 15	OT Lesson, 3rd Sunday in Advent—Isaiah 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Mon., Dec. 16	The mountain of the house of the Lord—Isaiah 2:1-5	Hebrews 10:35-39
Tues., Dec. 17	The Lord of hosts will reign—Isaiah 24:21-25:5	Luke 21:5-24
Wed, Dec. 18	He will swallow up death forever—Isaiah 25:6-12	Luke 12:35-39
Thurs, Dec. 19	Thy dead shall live, their bodies shall rise.—Isaiah 26:1-21	James 5:7-11
Fri., Dec. 20	Thy ransomed of the Lord shall return—Isaiah 51:1-23	Luke 1:1-17
Sat., Dec. 21	All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.—Isaiah 52:1-12	Luke 1:18-23
Sun., Dec. 22	OT Lesson, 4 th Sunday in Advent—Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Luke 1:39-56

Pray the Collect for The Third Sunday in Advent:

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. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord’s Prayer

Luther's 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.

Luther's 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.

Hymn of the Week

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

LSB 345

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.

*Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain*

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

D 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

HYMNS: 341, 357, 338, 352

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Philippians 4:4-7

John 1:39-56