

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

First Week of Advent

December 1, 2024, through December 8, 2024

**Life Thoughts--** “The Lord is our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6b). What comforting truth for hearts troubled with sin’s guilt that keeps resurfacing. Sometimes a past sin can be so haunting that we do not always feel forgiven, or we cannot forgive ourselves. The sin of abortion is a prime example. But our righteousness does not depend upon us or our feelings. Our righteousness is Christ! *Prayer: O Lord our Righteousness, may my comfort and hope be anchored in You and not my feelings. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts-- Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”** – Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

*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: Romans 13:8, 9b-10**

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments...are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

*Read or Chant Psalm 24*

## The Sacrament of Baptism—Fourth Part

**What does such baptizing with water indicate?** It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

**Where is this written?** St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Dec. 1	<b>OT Lesson, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent—Jeremiah 23:5-8</b>	Romans 13:8-14
Mon., Dec. 2	He shall bruise your head—Genesis 3:1-24	Colossians 1:15-20
Tues., Dec. 3	The sign of the covenant—Genesis 9:1-29	Acts 3:22-26
Wed, Dec. 4	By your descendants all will be blessed—Genesis 22:1-19	Colossians 1:21-29
Thurs, Dec. 5	The scepter shall not depart from Judah—Genesis 49:1-28	Hebrews 1:1-4
Fri., Dec. 6	A star shall come forth out of Jacob—Numbers 24:15-26	Hebrews 2:1-4
Sat., Dec. 7	The Lord will raise up a prophet—Deuteronomy 18:15-22	Ephesians 3:1-12
Sun., Dec. 8	OT Lesson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent—Malachi 4	Romans 15:4-13

## Pray the Collect for The First Sunday in Advent:

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. 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

### Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

#### 332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

D 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

*Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973*

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**Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Advent**

**December 8, 2024**

**HYMNS: 355, 357, 336, 338**

**Malachi 4**

**Romans 15:4-13**

**Luke 21:25-36**