

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Second Week of Advent

December 8, 2024, through December 15, 2024

Life Thoughts-- No matter what sufferings we carry or how weary we become, Jesus provides hope-filled news about His second coming. Christ has won the victory, and when He returns death and evil will be vanquished. We will be “leaping like calves from the stall” (Malachi 4:1-3). “[S]traighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28). Some things are worth waiting for—even amid suffering!

Stewardship Thoughts-- **Luke 21:28** – “**Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**” When the world starts to fall apart, when things go badly, when nation rises against nation, Jesus tells us to lift up our heads because redemption is nigh. What a wonderful reminder that we Christians really do have nothing to fear! Jesus has conquered and He will deliver the full victory to us in His second Advent. Therefore we are free to live godly, generous, faithful lives here and now, for we have nothing to be afraid of.

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: Luke 21:26b-27

“The powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Read or Chant Psalm 80

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Dec. 8	OT Lesson, 2nd Sunday in Advent—Malachi 4	Romans 15:4-13
Mon., Dec. 9	I will be his Father—1 Chronicles 17:1-27	Acts 17:22-34
Tues., Dec. 10	There shall not fail you a man to rule Israel—2 Chronicles 7:11-22	1 John 4:9-15
Wed, Dec. 11	The Root of Jesse shall stand—Isaiah 11:6-10	Colossians 1:1-8
Thurs, Dec. 12	The Lord is our Righteousness—Jeremiah 23:1-8	Philippians 2:12-18
Fri., Dec. 13	Their ruler shall come forth from their midst—Jeremiah 30:1-24	Philippians 3:12-16
Sat., Dec. 14	I will cause a righteous bran to spring forth—Jeremiah 33:14-26	Colossians 3:1-11
Sun., Dec. 15	OT Lesson, 3 rd Sunday in Advent—Isaiah 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Pray the Collect for The Second Sunday in Advent:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what
rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

HYMNS: 346, 357, 345, 636, 347

Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 11:2-11