

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Second week of Advent

December 6th through December 12th, 2020

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 selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

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

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism – 3rd Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Large Catechism: Many other kinds of spirits are mentioned in Scripture, such as the human spirit, heavenly spirits, and the evil spirit. But God's Spirit alone is called a Holy Spirit, that is, the one who has made us holy and still makes us holy. How does such sanctifying take place? Answer: The Holy Spirit effects our being made holy through the following: the community of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. That is, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us in the church's lap, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ. Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe in him and receive him as Lord, unless these were offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and

completed; Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work remained hidden so that no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not remain buried but be put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure, this redemption. Therefore being made holy is nothing else than bringing us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, to which we could not have come by ourselves.

Memory Verse – When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Coming of the Son of Man Luke 21:25-36		Psalm 106
Monday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah Luke 1:5-25	Daniel 9:20-27	Psalm 107
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord Luke 1:26-38	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Psalm 108
Wednesday	Advent Midweek: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Psalm 139	Luke 1:41-44	Psalm 109
Thursday	The Visitation Luke 1:39-56	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 110
Friday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Luke 1:57-80	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 111
Saturday	Comfort My People Isaiah 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Psalm 112

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Who Are Hospitalized:** Rhonda Morgan (Karen Yardley’s mother). **Those Recovering from Surgery:** Sam Tepe (Angie Siddell’s brother), Barb Mueller, Jason Brammeier. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (son-in-law of Roger &

Joan Knolhoff, ongoing cancer treatments). **Homebound Members:** Mary Boeker, Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 6th Sandy Haun, 7th Roy Defend, 8th Ethan Hanke. **Anniversaries:** 12th Jerry & Diane Buening. **For Area Schools:** That faculty and students may delight in teaching and learning, and that they may be kept safe from the pandemic. **For Government Officials:** Donald Trump (President), JB Pritzker (Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and strife.

Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)

Hymn of the Week: O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide (LSB 355)