

The Congregation at Prayer

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

December 13th through December 19th, 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.

Augsburg Confession: That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. They condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works.

Memory Verse – Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	“Go and Tell John What You Hear and See” Matthew 11:2-11		Psalm 113
Monday	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 114
Tuesday	The Nativity of Our Lord Luke 2:1-7	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 115
Wednesday	Advent Midweek: Raised at Christ’s Coming 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	John 11:21-27	Psalm 116
Thursday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds Luke 2:8-14	Exodus 40:1-3, 16-21, 34-38	Psalm 117
Friday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem Luke 2:15-20	Isaiah 52:6-10	Psalm 118
Saturday	The Lord Will Raise up a Prophet Like Moses Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Philippians 4:4-7	Psalm 119

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 Undergoing Surgery:** Sharon Hanke. **Those Recovering from Illness and Surgery:** Rhonda Morgan (Karen Yardley’s mother), Sam Tepe (Angie Siddell’s brother), Barb Mueller. **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:** 14th Leonard Kleiboeker, 15th Sarah Michael, 17th Crystal Gebhart. **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: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (LSB 345)