

**The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent  
(November 27<sup>th</sup>– December 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

**CATECHETICAL THEME:**

*What Is Confession*

**This Week’s Catechetical Theme: What Is Confession**

The word “confess,” literally means in the Greek: “to say the same.” And while we quickly think of the Confession of Sins, the word can be used in three ways: 1) to confess Christ; 2) to confess the Lord’s teaching; and 3) to confess sin. In each case, to confess is “to say the same” as God has already spoken in Holy Scripture. Indeed, whenever we are faithfully confessing, we are simply saying what the Lord has given us to speak—we are speaking His words back to Him. We begin this catechetical section on Confession and the Keys by considering the faithful confession placed on the lips of Christians by the Holy Spirit that we have sinned against God by “thought, word, and deed.” Indeed, whether it was the Prodigal Son of Luke 15, King David in Psalm 51, or any time a person confesses his or her sins, it is always a confession of what God has already revealed to be true. To confess sin, then, is to say what the Bible teaches us to say. Thankfully, the Lord is faithful and just to forgive the confessing sinner, and to cleanse him or her from all unrighteousness. God bless your time in His Word!

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

**The Ten Commandments & The Apostles’ Creed**

**The Catechism:**

*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.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Triumphal Entry Matthew 21:1-9		Psalm 127
Monday	Have Mercy Upon Me Psalm 51:1-2	Genesis 33	Psalm 128
Tuesday	But with You there Is Forgiveness Psalm 130:3-5	Genesis 34	Psalm 129

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Three Parables of the Lost Luke 15:1-32</b>	<b>Genesis 35</b>	<b>Psalm 130</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>They Shall Be as White as Snow Isaiah 1:18</b>	<b>Luke 1</b>	<b>Psalm 131</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>He Is Faithful and Just to Forgive Us 1 John 1:8-10</b>	<b>Luke 2</b>	<b>Psalm 132</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Malachi 4:1-6/Romans 15:4-13</b>	<b>Luke 3</b>	<b>Psalm 133</b>

### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today’s text and sermon. **Mon:** What sort of prayer is this? If you would pray this, what are you admitting about yourself? **Tues:** Where does this Psalm point us to look for forgiveness? **Wed:** What do the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son have in common? Did they find themselves? **Thurs:** How does the white snow—and the wool—teach us about God’s forgiveness? **Fri:** What does this passage promise to those who confess their sin? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today’s texts.

### Memory Verse

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Marla Corry, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Alan Kleiboeker, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Roger & Marilyn Sullens (father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Doris Brammeier, Sheri Nolte (11/27), Edwin Hermsmeyer (11/29), Jerry Buening, Lucas Hanke (11/30), James Kuper (12/2). **Anniversaries:** Mark & Susan Kleiboeker (11/28), Paul & Angie Langenhorst (12/1).

### The Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

**Hymn of the Week:** Savior of the Nations, Come (LSB 332)