

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Advent  
December 9 through December 16, 2007*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Repentance Is at the Heart of Advent** — “I’m tired of hearing talk about our sin!” This is often the response of those who hear the call to repentance. “Sin is a downer! Can’t we get on with something else?” Yes, we can go on. That’s what repentance is all about—going on, confessing sin, turning from it to Christ, finding our relief, comfort, and strength in His forgiveness. The message of repentance is not only the knowledge of our sin, it is also the proclamation that there is nothing that Jesus hasn’t done to save you from your sin and to give you new life and freedom now! The message of repentance always brings relief when it finds its rest in Christ, our righteousness.

## **The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

*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.*

### **Theme: Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand!**

#### **Invocation**

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

#### **Apostles’ Creed**

**Verse: 1 Timothy 6:8, 10a**

**Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.  
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.**

#### **Psalm 72 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.**

*Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	24	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	24
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	85, 91	14, 16	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72	25, 110

#### **The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—The Fourth Petition**

<p><i>What is the Fourth Petition?</i></p> <p><b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i></p> <p>God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>What is meant by daily bread?</i></p> <p>Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.</p>	Second Grade +

#### **Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent**

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord- Matt 3:1-12	Isaiah 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24
Monday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25	Isaiah 26:20-27:13	1 John 4:1-21
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	Isaiah 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21
Wednesday	MIDWEEK: Romans 15:4-13- The Joy and Peace in Believing	Isaiah 29:1-14	Jude 1-25
Thursday	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 29:15-30:14	Rev. 1:1-20
Friday	The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56	Isaiah 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 30:27-31:9	Rev. 3:1-22
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Isaiah 32:1-20	Rev. 4:1-11

**Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace**

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.**

**Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
- Friday:** Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week

The work of the Bulgarian Lutheran missionary efforts.  
God's blessing upon our advent meditation.  
Elanore Goodwill, friend of the Verages, undergoing treatment for cancer; David Hunsicker, son of Pastor Hunsicker, diagnosed with Colon cancer; Tom DuBois, Lutheran artist, undergoing treatment for cancer; Mel Gall, undergoing surgery this week; Luise Bollmeyer, undergoing exploratory hernia surgery this week; Sally Charboneau and Loraine Jones, sisters of Palmer Watson, both diagnosed with cancer; Jerry Schaeffer, recuperating from prostate surgery.

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of Week**

**"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (st. 1 and 2)**

**344**

**Look forward to the Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 16, 2007**

**Hymns:** 334, 345, 849, 349, 338

**Isaiah 35:1-10:** The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, God in human flesh, who will bring about joy out of gladness through His work and message of redemption. When Christ comes to suffer, die, rise again to life, and preach forgiveness of sins, then "eyes will be open...ears will be unstopped...the lame will leap for joy...the mute will sing...and the weak will be made strong" in the love of their Lord. This wonderful prophecy of Isaiah not only foretells Christ's coming in His work of redemption, but especially highlights how the preaching of the Gospel will usher in the glorious kingdom of God, in which the ransomed or redeemed of the Lord will find eternal delight in His salvation.

**James 5:7-11:** James encourages us to wait patiently for the Second Coming of Christ. Suffering can bring discouragement and disillusionment with life. Out of such discouragement can come the "grumbling of unbelief" against one another in the household of faith. The example of Job teaches us that God's will for us when we suffer, is that we might learn to walk by faith in His coming. The "end intended by the Lord" is that we learn to believe that He is, indeed, "very compassionate and merciful." Apart from the sufferings that we endure, we cannot really know the love of our Lord who suffered for us.

**Matthew 11:2-15:** Everyone needs comfort and strength from the Word of God, especially ministers who are called to preach the Word. John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus' response to this question took John and his disciples back to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He would give sight to the blind, the lame would walk, the lepers would be cleansed, the deaf would hear, the dead would be raised up, and the poor would have the Gospel preached to them. "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see." The content of Jesus' preaching (repentance and the forgiveness of sins) and the signs that He performed, not only fulfilled the Scriptures and proclaimed Him to be the Messiah, but they also gave hope and encouragement to John and his disciples. Now that John's ministry of preparation was ending, his disciples would be directed to Jesus as the fulfillment of their hope and the source of eternal comfort.