



# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer

Advent 3 | December 14-20, 2025

*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.*

1

## BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

2

## SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

3

## PRAY THE OUR FATHER

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us + from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

4

## PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

*Morning:* 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.

*Evening:* 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.

5

## SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be give to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 'For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.'

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

This world has been so corrupted by the evil of sin that we pray every day—indeed, multiple times a day—that God would deliver us from this evil. It is a rescue not from Creation as such, but from its brokenness and the evil that inhabits it—of body and soul, possessions and reputation, etc. But how does God deliver us? How are we enabled to stand up against the evil one? As Christ feeds and nourishes us in, with, and under His precious means of grace, He rescues us from every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. As Martin Luther once said, “If you knew how many fiery darts the devil was shooting at you, you’d run to the Sacrament of the Altar every chance you got!” Having been delivered and preserved from evil by Christ through this Word and Sacrament, we have the assurance that when our last hour does come, He will take us to Himself, away from the evil of a corrupt creation and into the restored and renewed creation He has promised—into the blessedness of life forever with Him. Of this we are certain. We know what God has promised and that He eagerly desires to hear us, and so we say our resounding “Amen!”

CATECHISM: The Our Father

*Seventh Petition*

**But deliver us from evil.**

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

*Conclusion*

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*What does this mean?*

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

Pre +
Second Grade +
Pre +
Third Grade +

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

*Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.*

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	<b>Advent 3:</b> Is. 40:1–8 / 1 Cor 4:1–5 / Matt. 11:2–10	
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	Heb. 10:35-39/Is. 2:1-5
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	Luke 21:5-24/Is. 24:21-25:5
Wednesday	<b>Ember Wed.:</b> Is. 2:2–5 / Is. 7:10–15 / Luke 1:26–38a	Luke 12:35-59/Is. 25:6-10
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	Jas. 5:7-11/Is. 26:1-21
Friday	<b>Ember Friday in Advent:</b> Is. 11:1–5 / Luke 1:39–47	Luke 1:1-25/Is. 51:1-16
Saturday	<b>Ember Saturday in Advent - Mass</b> 2 Thess. 2:1–8 / Luke 3:1–6 <i>Looking forward to Sunday: Deut. 18:15–19 / Phil. 4:4–7 / John 1:19b–28*</i>	Luke 1:26-38/Is. 52:1-12

## PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**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:

**LCMS District:** Southern Illinois District

**Partner Church:** Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILG)

**LCMS Missionaries:** The Cima Family (Cambodia); Becky Bartlet (Taiwan)

**LCMS Education:** Trinity Academy

**Sick & Recovering:** Randy Hunt (Z), Marge Utley (F)

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PRAY THE **PSALM** OF THE WEEK— Psalm 72

*Throughout this year of Congregation at Prayer, we will be praying the Psalms in canonical order (i.e., the order in which they're found in the canon of Scripture). Each Sunday's bulletin will include a helpful handout for the Psalm of the week. Please locate the Psalm in either your hymnal or bible and join in praying these ancient hymn-prayers of the Church. If the Psalm is a particularly long one, you might consider splitting it up and praying it over multiple days.*

7

READ THE **CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE READINGS** (INSIDE COVER)

*Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.*

8

PRAY THE **COLLECT** (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

9

PRAYER FOR **OURSELVES AND OTHERS** (INSIDE COVER)

10

SAY OR SING THE **HYMN** OF THE WEEK (LSB 655; *Martin Luther, 1483-1546*)

**“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make  
known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.