



✠ DAILY PRAYER ✠

Advent 4
24-30 December 2023

Hope Lutheran Church
St. Louis, Missouri

This guide is offered to assist families, individuals, and small groups in the simple forms of daily prayer included in Lutheran Service Book (pages 294-298). Use the form in LSB appropriate for the time of day and follow the weekly resources in this guide for hymns, readings, and prayers. Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

✠ ORDER FOR PRAYER

Morning	LSB, p. 295	Early Evening	LSB, p. 297
Noon	LSB, p. 296	Close of the Day	LSB, p. 298

✠ HYMN *LSB 357 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

✠ SCRIPTURE READING (from **Daily Lectionary**, LSB, pp. 299-304)

	Old Testament	New Testament
Sun.	Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25	Revelation 12:1-17
Mon.	Isaiah 49:1-18	Matthew 1:1-17
Tues.	Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16	Matthew 1:18-25
Wed.	Isaiah 51:17-52:12	Matthew 2:1-12
Thu.	Isaiah 52:13-54:10	Matthew 2:13-23
Fri.	Isaiah 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
Sat.	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38

✠ APOSTLES' CREED – *LSB*, inside back cover

✠ LORD'S PRAYER – *LSB*, inside back cover

✠ PRAYERS

Collect for Advent 4

Stir up you power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS

26 Dec. – St. Stephen, Martyr

27 Dec. – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 Dec. – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

29 Dec. – David

✠ CONCLUDING PRAYERS – Order of Prayer in *LSB*

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BOOK OF CONCORD READING

Advent 4

BAPTISM

As we hear of the preaching of John the Baptist, it is important to note the gifts that God gives through baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

This from the Smalcald Articles, Part 3, Article 5:

[5:] Concerning Baptism

Baptism is nothing other than God's Word in the water, commanded by God's institution, or, as Paul says, "washing by the Word." Moreover, Augustine says, "Let the Word be added to the element, and a sacrament results." Therefore we do not agree with Thomas and the Dominicans who forget the Word (God's institution) and say that God has placed a spiritual power in the water which, through the water, washes away sin. We also disagree with Scotus and the Franciscans, who teach that baptism washes away sin through the assistance of the divine will, that is, that this washing takes place only through God's will and not at all through the Word and the water.

Concerning Infant Baptism

We maintain that we should baptize children because they also belong to the promised redemption that was brought about by Christ. The church ought to extend it to them.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK'S DIVINE SERVICE

The First Sunday after Christmas

31 December 2023

This “mini-Bible study” is included for your use in personal devotions or with friends during the coming week as you prepare to hear God’s Word next Sunday. The questions provided after each of the Scripture texts are intended for your thought and reflection.

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 11:1-5

1. As we continue to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus, Isaiah proclaims the Spirit that accompanies Him. What words does Isaiah use in this description? How do these words help us glorify our Lord Christ?
2. In what does Jesus—“God-in-the-Flesh”—delight? How will He judge the poor?
3. What two things does Jesus wear as His belts? What comfort do you find from this? (Remember, these two things are *gifts* not demands!)

PSALMODY – Psalm 111

1. Psalm 111 is a good Psalm to recite every Sunday morning. How would this Psalm get you ready for Sunday worship?
2. Where will the psalmist praise the Lord? Why is this important in combating the individualism of our society and times?
3. In the words of the Psalm, on what things do we concentrate during Sunday worship?
4. Lutherans have historically called the Sunday worship service “Divine Service.” This week’s Psalm helps us understand why. Read pages 6-7 in our hymnal, *Lutheran Worship*, for another explanation.

EPISTLE – Galatians 4:1-7

1. What happened in the “fullness of time”? How do we benefit now?
2. What new identity does Jesus’ salvation give us? What can we now cry?

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:22-40

1. What law were Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus fulfilling in verses 22-24? See Leviticus 12:1-8. To whom did the Child belong?
2. What promise had God given to Simeon? How did God fulfill that promise?
3. What did Simeon say (sing!) when he saw that God kept His promise of salvation? When do we get to sing that song? (Hint: Think Communion.)
4. How did Anna respond to seeing Jesus in the Temple?
5. Why is it important that Jesus, even as a Baby, fulfilled the Law? See Galatians 4:4-5.