

The Congregation at Prayer

To be used for daily devotions
Following the First Sunday in Advent
November 29th through December 5th

Teaching for the week – Advent, like Lent, is a penitential season. We take the four weeks prior to Christmas and reflect on anticipating Christ's coming, how He was announced, and then God making it so through a message from an angel. During this time, we intently focus on the need for a Savior and the means by which He is going to bring about the salvation of mankind. This coming Sunday we will focus on the preparation for the Savior in the work of John the Baptizer. His message is what the world has been waiting for. It is the comfort that Isaiah prophesied about. Since it will be our celebration of the 2020 confirmands and the reception of new members, we will note that this message is long awaited, not delayed. God has placed humanity in a holding pattern that He might show the wonders of what He is accomplishing. God is not slow as some think. (2nd Peter 3:9)

The current Confirmands are in the midst of learning one the greatest Covenantal signs of all time: Baptism. The Lord has instituted this blessed sacrament that we might be granted the confidence of His appointed us for everlasting life through His Son, Jesus Christ. Pull out your catechism. Review the section on Baptism. See how much you have retained from your days of memorization.

The Order of Prayer

Please be sure to pray aloud if you are able. Even if you are alone. If others are present, have them join you. The Scripture verses, portions of the catechism, and hymns are for meditation and eventual memorization over time.

Theme: Christ comes humbly in triumph.

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

The Ten Commandments:

Apostle's Creed:

Verse: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
(John 8:31b–32, ESV)

Psalm: 85

The Catechism: The Second and Third Petitions of the Lord's Prayer

<i>The Second Petition - Thy kingdom come.</i>	<i>Preschool+</i>
<i>What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.</i>	<i>First Grade+</i>
<i>How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.</i>	<i>Second Grade+</i>
<i>The Third Petition - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	<i>Preschool+</i>
<i>What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.</i>	<i>First Grade+</i>
<i>How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.</i>	<i>Second Grade+</i>

Readings for the Week:

Day	Reading
Monday	Jacob Blesses His Sons Before He Dies – Genesis 49:1(2-27)28-50:14
Tuesday	Joseph Continues to Show Mercy to His Brothers – Genesis 50:15-26
Wednesday	The Birth of Moses – Exodus 1:1-2:10
Thursday	Moses Flees to Midian – Exodus 2:11-25
Friday	I AM Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush – Exodus 3:1-17
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's Readings – Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

Prayers: (collect for the week, prayer list, Lord's Prayer and Luther's Prayers)

Collect of the week: 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

In our prayers this week:

Those suffering due to COVID-19	President Donald Trump The State of Nebraska	Residents of Manor and Assisted Living	Joan Darlene
For favorable weather	Governor Pete Ricketts	Dustin	Helen
Zion Lutheran Church	The City of Imperial	Wes	Rod
The Lutheran Church– Missouri Synod	Mayor Dwight Coleman	Phyllis	Lynette
Synod President	For our county and city law enforcement officers	Jack Ina	Marilou Chanel
Matthew Harrison		Sherry	Betsy
District President	Family of Arnold	Donna	David
Richard Snow	Remie	Edna	Karen
Our Synod's Seminaries	Brooke	Bonnie	Richard
Our Sister Churches	Meredith	Nettie	Devona
The United States of America	Joan Leona	Wes Kendra Sharon	Glen Steve

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

Hymn of the week: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Looking Forward to the Second Sunday in Advent**December 6th, 2020**

Hymns: 346, 344, (347, 707, 865), 338

Isaiah 40:1-11: God speaks of His divine comfort that He is bringing to His people. He will send forth a messenger that will declare that the Mighty One has come to save His people.

2nd Peter 3:8-14: Peter declares that God is not slow. This must be repeated over and over again to those who are waiting. He then goes on to warn the people that the great day of the Lord will come without warning. This is why we don't live as unbelievers, but are constantly preparing ourselves for the Lord's coming.

Mark 1:1-8: John the Baptizer came as the final Old Testament prophet to prepare the people for the Lords coming. His appearance and lifestyle made him undesirable, yet the Holy Spirit worked through his words to draw many to repentance. He was also blessed to be able to identify Jesus as the Lamb of God!