

# The Congregation at Prayer

## ✠ **Populus Zion** ✠

The Second Sunday of Advent

### **“The Lord Comes on the Last Day”**

Malachi 4:1–6; Romans 15:4–13; Luke 21:25–36

The Day on which our Lord returns will be a **“great and awesome day”** (Malachi 4:5). He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of Judgment that will **“set them ablaze”** (Malachi 4:1). The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the Name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in: **“... straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”** (Luke 21:28). Christ our Redeemer is coming. The Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us **“through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures”** (Romans 15:4) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus’ coming. Then, by God’s grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.

**INVOCATION** (*make the sign of the holy cross and say*)

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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 is seated 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting.

**PSALMODY** (*sing or read out loud each day*)

Psalm 50

**LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM:** The Ten Commandments

*The Second Commandment*

**You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord your God.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His Name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Psalm 7	Genesis 8:1-19	1 Chronicles 8	Luke 4:14-44
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 8	Genesis 8:20-9:19	1 Chronicles 9	Luke 5:1-6:16
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 9	Genesis 9:20-10:32	1 Chronicles 10	Luke 6:17-49
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 10	Genesis 11	1 Chronicles 11	Luke 7:1-35
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 11	Genesis 12-13:1	1 Chronicles 12	Luke 7:36-8:3
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 12	Genesis 13:2-18	1 Chronicles 13	Luke 8:4-21
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 13	Genesis 14	1 Chronicles 14	Luke 8:22-56

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*LSB 336*

## PRAYERS

*The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:*

**Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

**Monday:** For faith to live in the promise 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:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God's Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, 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:** For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** 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 as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ's holy gifts.

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.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

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.

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.

**BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit † be with us all.

**Amen.**

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**LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY:** *Gaudete* (Advent 3)

Isaiah 40:1–11

Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

Matthew 11:2–11

Hymn of the Day

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

LSB 345