

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

Deuteronomy 18:15–19; Philippians 4:4–7; John 1:19–28

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deuteronomy 18:15–19). Therefore, God raised



up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from Heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth salvation through the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56).

The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal straps John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus, we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:4–7).



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 111

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: The Ten Commandments

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 21	Genesis 21:1-21	1 Chronicles 25	Luke 13:10-35
Monday:	Psalm 22	Genesis 21:22-34	1 Chronicles 26	Luke 14
Tuesday:	Psalm 23	Genesis 22	1 Chronicles 27	Luke 15
Wednesday:	Psalm 24	Genesis 23	1 Chronicles 28	Luke 16:1-17:10
Thursday:	Psalm 25	Genesis 24	1 Chronicles 29:1-22a	Luke 17:11-37
Friday:	Psalm 26	Genesis 25:1-18	1 Chronicles 29:22b-30	Luke 18:1-30
Saturday:	Psalm 27	Genesis 25:19-34	2 Chronicles 1	Luke 18:31-19:27

HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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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 Your 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.

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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *The Nativity of Our Lord*

Isaiah 52:6–10

Psalm 2

Hebrews 1:1–12

John 1:1–14

Hymn of the Day

Of the Father's Love Begotten

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