

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

## The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

Jeremiah 23:5–8; Romans 13:8–14; Matthew 21:1–9

The new Church Year begins by focusing on the humble coming of our Lord. **“Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey”** (Matthew 21:5). Even as He was born in a lowly manger, so Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a beast of burden, for He bears the sin



of the world. He is the Son of David riding to His enthronement on the cross, where He shows Himself to be **“The LORD is our Righteousness”** (Jeremiah 23:5–6). Our Lord still comes in great humility to deliver His righteousness to us in the Word and Sacraments. Before receiving Christ’s body and blood, we also sing,

**“Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”** (Matthew 21:9; Psalm 118:25-26) And as we receive the Sacrament, we set our hearts on His return in glory, for **“our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”** (Romans 13:11).



THE FIRST 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 24

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

*The First Commandment*

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday:</b> Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Genesis 1	1 Chronicles 1	Luke 1:1-25
<b>Monday:</b> Psalm 1	Genesis 2	1 Chronicles 2	Luke 1:26-56
<b>Tuesday:</b> Psalm 2	Genesis 3	1 Chronicles 3	Luke 1:57-80
<b>Wednesday:</b> Psalm 3	Genesis 4	1 Chronicles 4	Luke 2:1-21
<b>Thursday:</b> Psalm 4	Genesis 5	1 Chronicles 5	Luke 2:22-52
<b>Friday:</b> Psalm 5	Genesis 6	1 Chronicles 6	Luke 3:1-22
<b>Saturday:</b> Psalm 6	Genesis 7	1 Chronicles 7	Luke 3:23-4:13

## 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, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; 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 Second Sunday of Advent (Populus Zion)*

Malachi 4:1–6

Psalm 50

Romans 15:4–13

Luke 21:25–36

Hymn of the Day

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

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