

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. Amen.

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. Amen.

**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:** *Rorate Coeli (Advent 4)*

Deuteronomy 18:15-19      Psalm 111      Philippians 4:4-7      John 1:19-28  
Hymn of the Day      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      LSB 357

# The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *Gaudete (Advent 3)*

**Sunday, December 15 through Saturday, December 21**

**“John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord”**

Isaiah 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 11:2-11

The voice of John the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: **“Prepare the way of the Lord . . .”** (Isaiah 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for **“all flesh is grass”** (Isaiah 40:6). Now he asks from prison, **“Are You the one who is to come . . .?”** (Matthew 11:2) Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The **“stewards of the mysteries of God”** (1 Corinthians 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the Word of the Gospel that stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe. 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. Amen.

**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. Amen.

**PSALMODY**

Psalm 85

**THE SMALCALD ARTICLES**

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Part: Article IX—Excommunication*

*See Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, p. 281*

**DAILY READINGS**

Sunday, December 15:	Genesis 15 Luke 9:1-50	1 Chronicles 15:1-16:3 Psalm 14
Monday, December 16:	Genesis 16 Luke 9:51-10:24	1 Chronicles 16:4-43 Psalm 15
Tuesday, December 17:	Genesis 17 Luke 10:25-42	1 Chronicles 17 Psalm 16
Wednesday, December 18:	Genesis 18:1-15 Luke 11:1-36	1 Chronicles 18-20 Psalm 17
Thursday, December 19:	Genesis 18:16-33	1 Chronicles 21:1-17

Luke 11:37-12:12      Psalm 18

Friday, December 20: Genesis 19      1 Chronicles 21:18-22:19

Luke 12:13-48      Psalm 19

Saturday, December 21: Genesis 20      1 Chronicles 23-24

Luke 12:49-13:9      Psalm 20

**HYMN**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

*LSB 345:1, 3*

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!**

**See, the Lamb, so long expected,**

**“Christ is near,” we hear it say.**

**Comes with pardon down from heav’n.**

**“Cast away the works of darkness,**

**Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,**

**All you children of the day!”**

**One and all to be forgiv’n.**

**PRAYERS**

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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. Amen.

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. Amen.