For your life in Christ the Week of the
Fourth Sunday in Advent
(Rorate Coeli)
December 21–27, 2020

How to use this resource: Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able or as your family size and ages dictate. You will need your Bible, a Catechism, and an LSB Hymnal. Other resources named within may enrich your meditation.

Begin

Invocation
The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn of the Week
LSB #382 “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth” (v. 1–2)

Recite

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 sits 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.

Verse of the Week: Galatians 4:4–5
“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”
### Meditate

**Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
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<td>26, 27</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>23, 24</td>
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<td>28, 29</td>
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### Daily Bible Stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Week 16: Christmas Stories</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds – Luke 2:8–14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td><strong>Attend Christmas Day Service</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings (see last page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Attend Divine Service</td>
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### Daily Lectionary Readings

| **December 21** | Is 42:1–25, Rev 9:1–12 |
| **December 22** | Is 43:1–24, Rev 9:13–10:11 |
| **December 23** | Is 43:25–44:20, Rev 11:1–19 |
| **December 25** | Is 49:1–18, Matt 1:1–17 |
| **December 26** | Is 49:22–26;50:4–51:8, 12–16, Matt 1:18–25 |
| **December 27** | Is 51:17–52:12, Matt 2:1–12 |
Study

The Catechism

Participants may choose to study the catechism at their own pace or follow along with the selected portion of the catechism for the week.

Review Ten Commandments

See p. 5–7 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Pray

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

Collect for the Week:

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. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises 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: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins. Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods. Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, 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: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying. Saturday: Pray 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 and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts. Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
**Close**

**Blessing**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**Amen.**

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**Observing the Church Year**

**Liturgical Color(s) of the Week:** Blue; Red; White

**Blue** - The color of the sky, helps convey a message of hope. Just as Christ ascended into heaven by being lifted up into the blue sky, we wait for Him to return from that same blue sky on the last day.

**Red** - The color of fire and blood. Red symbolizes the gift of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs.

**White** - The color of the pure glory of Christ and the angels. Jesus comes at the fullness of time as the complete fulfillment of God’s promises. Jesus’ resurrection is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before the Father becomes our purity.

**Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations This Week**

*NOTE: The following resources contain great summaries of the observances of the church year*

1. TDP—“Treasury of Daily Prayer”

2. CS—“Celebrating the Saints”

- **December 21** – St. Thomas the Apostle (R) (TDP p. 1038; CS p. 232)
- **December 24** – Christmas Eve (W) (TDP p. 1050; CS p. 234)
- **December 25** – The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Day) (W) (TDP p. 1054; CS p. 234)
- **December 26** – St. Stephen, Martyr (R) (TDP p. 1058; CS p. 236)
- **December 27** – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (W) (TDP p. 1061; CS p. 238)

**Looking Forward to Sunday**

**St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Readings:** Revelation 1:1–6; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 21:10–25

St. John the Evangelist put Christmas in one verse: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Not martyred but still a witness, John was exiled to Patmos and died an old man, according to tradition. He bore witness “to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw” (Rev. 1:2). Above all, he was an eyewitness of Christ who proclaims to us what he saw and heard concerning the “Word of Life” that was “made manifest” (1 John 1:1–3). “And we know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24). The readings today include John's testimony of Christ's atoning death and His third resurrection appearance (John 21:14). On the third day of Christmas, we find joy and gladness with John and all the apostles that “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous,” who is “the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1–2).