



**For your life in Christ the Week of
the Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)
December 13-19, 2021**

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 #333 “Once He Came in Blessing” (vv. 1-3)

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: Deuteronomy 10:12

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (ESV)

The Family Altar

**A Guide for Daily Meditation and
Prayer in the Christian Home**

Meditate

Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule

	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Sun.</i>
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128	130	132	134
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	129	131	133	135

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 15: Christmas Stories
Monday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah - Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord - Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Christ's Birth is Foretold to Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday	The Visitation - Luke 1:39-56
Friday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Luke 1:57-80
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

December 13	Is 29:15-30:14, Rev 1:1-19
December 14	Is 30:15-26, Rev 2:1-29
December 15	Is 30:27-31:9, Rev 3:1-22
December 16	Is 32:1-20, Rev 4:1-11
December 17	Is 33:1-24, Rev 5:1-14
December 18	Is 34:1-2, 8-35:10, Rev 6:1-17 <i>Micah 1:1-7:20</i>
December 19	Is 40:1-17, Rev 7:1-17

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 pp. 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:

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.

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.

Observing the Church Year

Liturgical Color(s) of the Week: Blue

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.

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 13 - Lucia, Martyr (B) (TDP p. 1012; CS p. 224)

December 17 - Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men (B) (TDP p. 1025; CS p. 226)

December 19 - Adam and Eve (B) (TDP p. 1032; CS p. 228)

Looking Forward to Sunday

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Rorate Coeli)

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28 *or* Luke 1:39-56

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

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 (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, 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 (Introit) 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 strap 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 which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).