



**For your life in Christ the Week of
the Fourth Sunday in Advent
(Rorate Coeli)
December 20–26, 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. 1–4)

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: Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” (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	136	138	140	142	144	147	148
Evening	137	139	141	143	145	146	149, 150

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 16: Christmas Stories
Monday	The Nativity of Our Lord - Luke 2:1-7
Tuesday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds - Luke 2:8-14
Wednesday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem - Luke 2:15-20
Thursday	Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation - Luke 2:21-24
Friday	Attend Christmas Services
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

December 20	Is 40:18-41:10, Rev 8:1-13
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 24	Is 44:21-45:13, 20-25, Rev 12:1-17 <i>Daniel 10:1-12:13, Isaiah 48:1-22</i>
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

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 1st Article of the Creed

See p. 8 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.**

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 20 - Katharina von Bora Luther (B) (TDP p. 1035; CS p. 230)

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)

Looking Forward to Sunday

St. Stephen, Martyr

Readings: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 22:34-39

The Christ is born in the land of Judah, but His own people will not receive Him. As it was in the days of Joash, so it is also in the days of Herod and Pilate. The Lord "*sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord . . . but they would not pay attention*" (2 Chron. 24:19). As Zechariah was being stoned he cried out, "*May the Lord see and avenge!*" (2 Chron. 24:22). But the infant Jesus has come to save and to forgive. Today, the Church remembers St. Stephen, the first martyr after Christ's ascension. His confession recalled the stiff-necked, uncircumcised hearts and ears of Judah that would not receive the Righteous One (Acts 7:51-52). But as his body was being stoned and his spirit received by the Lord Jesus, Stephen cried, "*Lord, do not hold this sin against them*" (Acts 7:59-60), bearing witness to the One who also said, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:34). On the second day of Christmas, our thoughts are already directed to Christ's atoning death to save rebels like us, and to the vision Stephen saw: Heaven is open to us, Christ is reigning at God's right hand, and no sin, death, or foe can stop Him.