



## For your life in Christ the Week of the Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)

December 12-18, 2022

*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 #347 “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” (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: Psalm 40:17*

“As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.  
You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!” (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>
<b>Morning</b>	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107
<b>Evening</b>	94	97	99	102	104	106	108

### *Daily Bible Stories*

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

### *Daily Lectionary Readings*

<b>December 12</b>	Is 29:1-14, Jude 1-25
<b>December 13</b>	Is 29:15-30:14, Rev 1:1-19
<b>December 14</b>	Is 30:15-26, Rev 2:1-29
<b>December 15</b>	Is 30:27-31:9, Rev 3:1-22
<b>December 16</b>	Is 32:1-20, Rev 4:1-11
<b>December 17</b>	Is 33:1-24, Rev 5:1-14
<b>December 18</b>	Is 34:1-2, 8-35:10, Rev 6:1-17 <i>Micah 1:1-7:20</i>

## *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.**

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## 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)

### *Looking Forward to Sunday*

#### **The Fourth Sunday in Advent (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).