



**For your life in Christ the Week of the
4th Sunday in Advent (Rorate Coeli)
December 19-25, 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. 1-4)

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: 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.” (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	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112
Evening	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136

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	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child - Luke 2:25-40
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

December 19	Is 40:1-17, Rev 7:1-17
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

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; 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.

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

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)

Looking Forward to Sunday

The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

Readings: Exodus 40:17-21; 34-38; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14 (15-18)

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh

In the beginning God created all things through His Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (Ex. 40:17-21, 34-38). *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:1-14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ's body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, *"the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"* (Titus 3:4-7). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.