



**For your life in Christ the Week of  
the Second Sunday in Advent  
(Populus Zion)  
December 11-17, 2023**

*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 #345 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (vv. 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: Hebrews 1:3***

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

***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>	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
<b>Evening</b>	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

### *Daily Bible Stories*

<i>Day</i>	<b>Week 15: Old Testament Stories</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Joseph Continues to Show Mercy to His Brothers - Genesis 50:15-26
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Birth of Moses - Exodus 1:1-2:10
<b>Wednesday</b>	Moses Flees to Midian - Exodus 2:11-25
<b>Thursday</b>	I AM Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1-17
<b>Friday</b>	The LORD Goes with Moses to Egypt - Exodus 4:1-31
<b>Saturday</b>	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
<b>Sunday</b>	Attend Divine Service

### *Daily Lectionary Readings*

<b>December 11</b>	Is 28:14-29, 1 John 5:1-21 <i>2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-15</i>
<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

## *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:*

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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*

*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.*

### *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 (R) (TDP p. 1012; CS p. 224)

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

### *Looking Forward to Sunday*

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**Readings:** Isaiah 40:1-8 (9-11); 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 11:2-10 (11)

### **John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord**

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: *"Prepare the way of the Lord . . ."* (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now he asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.