



**For your life in Christ the Week of  
the Fourth Sunday in Advent  
(Rorate Coeli)  
December 22-28, 2025**

*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 #359 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (v. 1)

***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: 1 John 4:10***

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (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>	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 17: Christmas Stories</b>
<b>Monday</b>	The Visitation - Luke 1:39-56
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Luke 1:57-80
<b>Wednesday</b>	The Nativity of Our Lord - Luke 2:1-7
<b>Thursday</b>	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds - Luke 2:8-14
<b>Friday</b>	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem - Luke 2:15-20
<b>Saturday</b>	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
<b>Sunday</b>	Attend Divine Service

### *Daily Lectionary Readings*

<b>December 22</b>	Is 43:1-24, Rev 9:13-10:11
<b>December 23</b>	Is 43:25-44:20, Rev 11:1-19
<b>December 24</b>	Is 44:21-45:13, 20-25, Rev 12:1-17 <i>Daniel 10:1-12:13, Isaiah 48:1-22</i>
<b>December 25</b>	Is 49:1-18, Matt 1:1-17
<b>December 26</b>	Is 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16, Matt 1:18-25
<b>December 27</b>	Is 51:17-52:12, Matt 2:1-12
<b>December 28</b>	Is 52:13-54:10, Matt 2:13-23

## *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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

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## Observing the Church Year

*Liturgical Color(s) of the Week: Blue; White; 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.*

*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.*

*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 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)

December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (W) (TDP p. 1061; CS p. 238)

December 28 - Holy Innocents, Martyrs (R) (TDP p. 1065; CS p. 240)

### *Looking Forward to Sunday*

**Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**Readings:** Jeremiah 31:15-17; Revelation 14:1-5; Matthew 2:13-18

### **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).