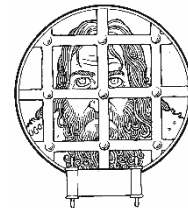




The Parish at Prayer

Week of: 3rd Sunday in Advent: *Gaudete*
17 – 23 December 2023



*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order of meditation and prayer
as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Isaiah 40:3 ESV

*A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

Psalm

Psalm 85

Bible Readings

Sunday [Sunday's Readings]

Monday Isaiah 34:1-2, 8–35:10

Tuesday Isaiah 40:1-17

Wednesday Isaiah 40:18–41:10

Thursday Isaiah 42:1-25

Friday Isaiah 43:1-24

Saturday Isaiah 43:25–44:20

Revelation 6:1-17

Revelation 7:1-17

Revelation 8:1-13

Revelation 9:1-12

Revelation 9:13–10:11

Revelation 11:1-19

Catechism

Lord's Prayer: 3rd Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

Meditation

[Here you may read a devotion from Portals of Prayer, the Daily Reflection from Higher Things, etc.]

In Our Prayers This Week

For the Sick, Recovering, or undergoing tests and procedures: Amber, Brenda, Tammy, Art, Lenny Jr., Mike, Tom, Cheryl, Charlene, Mary Ellen, Marilyn, Tom, Becky, Joseph, Erin, Joan, Shirley, Mike, Ruth Ann, Mary, Chris, Carolyn, Kyleigh, Jeremy, Stephen, Bill, Nich, Micah, Pat, Brandon, Lora, Robyn, Braden, Margaret, Laurel, Neal, Michael.

For those suffering from mental illness.

For the grieving.

For all Christian marriages and families.

For expectant mothers: Emma Heinz, and Kristy Sanders.

For world leaders.

For peace in Israel, protecting the innocent, and bringing an end to the evil.

For our government, and for godly leaders who protect innocent life from conception to natural death.

For our Armed Forces, that they have courage, knowledge, skill, protection, and integrity.

For Persecuted Christians; especially those in Mozambique, Turkey, and Mexico.

For our Partner churches; especially The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay, and her President, the Rev. Eugenio Wentzel.

For Ben & Emma Heinz, and all seminarians and church work students.

For missionaries, especially the Rev. Christian Tiews.

For Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church.)

For Lutherische Theologische Hochschule in Oberursel, Germany (Independent Ev. Lutheran Church –SELK.)

For Westfield House (Lutheran house of studies in Cambridge for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England.)

For the Concordia Universities and Luther Classical College.

For Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, and her President, The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast.

For Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and her President, The Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger.

For our Pastors in Christ; especially

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of LCMS

Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch, President of the Indiana District of LCMS

Rev. Richard Heinz, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church

Collect of the Day

Collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

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.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night
from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would keep me this day also
from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins
where I have done wrong,
and graciously keep me this night.
For into Your hands, I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.