



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday in Advent
December 8 through December 14, 2024*

The Lord is surely coming, and we should not take His coming lightly. We should not take God for granted, and assume that He is harmless, for St. John the Baptist describes The Lord's ministry as *'the wrath to come.'* Therefore, let us watch for our Lord in repentance and sobriety.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the appointed verse and portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 8	Psalm 11	Is. 24:14—25:12	1 John 2:15-29
Monday, Dec. 9	Psalm 17:6-15	Is. 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Psalm 86:1-7	Is. 26:20—27:13	1 John 4:1-21
Wednesday, Dec. 11	Psalm 5:1-8	Is. 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21
Thursday, Dec. 12	Psalm 106:1-5	Is. 29:1-14	Jude 1-25
Friday, Dec. 13	Psalm 89:20-29	Is. 29:15—30:14	Rev. 1:1-20
Saturday, Dec. 14	Psalm 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	Is. 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 8, 2024

Theme: Let us wait in all purity for the coming of our Lord.

Hymn: 348, “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Summary of Readings:

Malachi 3:1–7: Malachi prophesies of the coming Messiah, and urges Israel to repent of their sin and idolatry.

Philippians 1:2–11: St. Paul greets the Church in Philippi, and urges them to grow in love and knowledge.

Luke 3:1–14: St. John the Baptist receives the Jewish masses into the desert to be baptized into repentance, and he commands them to live righteously in each of their vocations.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

THE CATECHISM: THE 10TH COMMANDMENT

(Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.)

What is the Tenth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 66:1-12 (ESV)

Meditate on this Psalm every day when you pray, and use it as the starting place for your own prayer:

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ²sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! ³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. ⁴All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Selah. ⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. ⁶He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, ⁷who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. ⁸Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; ¹²you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 66:1-12¹:

Thanks and praise be unto You, God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan, and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

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.

¹ Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH, 2007

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER – (From LSB page 294)

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT CHRIST:

Prayer Family: *Barbara Glenn* and her loved ones

Gary Atchley, as he continues to recover from surgery

Marie Ferderer & Child, the Holowaches' daughter, who is expecting on December 9

Kathy Rothblum, friend of the Fields, who is recovering from a head injury

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.