



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday in Advent
December 15 through December 21, 2024*

The Lord is coming in vengeance, but not as many would expect it. He comes not to destroy the oppression of man over man, as the Jews had hoped, to destroy the oppression of the devil over humanity. It is against this oppressor, Satan, that the Lord reveals his wrath, not in glory and power, but hidden in lowliness and humility.

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. 15	Psalm 146:1-7	Is. 30:27—31:9	Rev. 3:1-22
Monday, Dec. 16	Psalm 149	Is. 32:1-20	Rev. 4:1-11
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Psalm 40:1-5, 16-17	Is. 33:1-24	Rev. 5:1-14
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Psalm 119:81-88	Is. 34:1-2, 8—35:10	Rev. 6:1-17
Thursday, Dec. 19	Psalm 103:11-18	Is. 40:1-17	Rev. 7:1-17
Friday, Dec. 20	Psalm 119:25-32	Is. 40:18—41:10	Rev. 8:1-13
Saturday, Dec. 21	Psalm 102:24-28	Is. 42:1-25	Rev. 9:1-12

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 15, 2024

Theme: The Lord’s vengeance against the devil and all evil is revealed in His lowly birth in a manger, and His humble death upon the cross.

Hymn: 352, “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Summary of Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14–20: The promise of God’s redemption of Israel against his oppressors is given, that all God’s people might rejoice and give praise to the Lord.

Philippians 4:4–7: St. Paul, showing to the Church the peace which passes all understanding, exhorts the saints to rejoice forevermore.

Luke 7:18–28: The disciples of John ask Jesus if He is the Messiah. Christ responds that who He is, is revealed through His works.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 6:23: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

THE CATECHISM: THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS (PART 1)

(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 does God say about all these commandments? He says, “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Exodus 20:5-6).

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 85 (ESV)

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

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? ⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. ¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 85¹:

Remember not, O God, our transgressions against us, and record not our sins in Your book, but cast them into the depth of the sea, and remember them no more forever. Impute to us the obedience of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled all righteousness for us and gave Himself a sacrifice for our sins. Let us live for His sake, and enable us to walk worthy of our calling. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD 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.

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: *The Haines Family* and their loved ones

Donna Caron, Gloria Pedersen's cousin, who has been hospitalized

Betty Hansford, Glen's stepmother, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Ward Marsh, friend of Mark Ochs, who is undergoing cancer treatment

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.