

6 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK—Psalm 135

Praise the Lord!
Praise the name of the Lord,
give praise, O servants of the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God!
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel as his own possession.
For I know that the Lord is great,
and that our Lord is above all gods.
Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,
in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.
He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,
who makes lightnings for the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.
He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
both of man and of beast;
who in your midst, O Egypt,
sent signs and wonders
against Pharaoh and all his servants;
who struck down many nations
and killed mighty kings,

Sihon, king of the Amorites,
and Og, king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan,
and gave their land as a heritage,
a heritage to his people Israel.
Your name, O Lord, endures forever,
your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages.
For the Lord will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.
The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths, but do not speak;
they have eyes, but do not see;
they have ears, but do not hear,
nor is there any breath in their mouths.
Those who make them become like them,
so do all who trust in them!
O house of Israel, bless the Lord!
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!
O house of Levi, bless the Lord!
You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!
Blessed be the Lord from Zion,
he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the Lord!

7 READ THE CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE READINGS (INSIDE COVER)

Read the Catechism & Bible Story first. Then, if time permits, read the Second Reading.

8 PRAY THE COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK

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.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS (INSIDE COVER)

10 SAY OR SING THE HYMN OF THE WEEK (LSB 332; Ambrose of Milan, 340-397)

Savior of the Nations, Come

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.



THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer
Gaudete | December 12-18, 2021

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE 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.

3 PRAY THE 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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning: 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.

Evening: 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.

5 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—1 Timothy 4:4-5

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

Psalm 135: A Psalm of Praise for Our Creator and Redeemer—Psalm 135 calls us to praise the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer. All who stand in the house of the Lord are to praise the Lord and sing to His name, for it is pleasant. By the name of the Lord, we were baptized and made the children of God. By the name of the Lord, He continues to forgive our sins. And by the name of the Lord, we call upon Him in every trouble. Like the Old Testament Church which was established by the promise of salvation made to the Patriarchs, so the New Testament Church rests her hopes and confidence upon the promises of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus who is both our Creator and our Redeemer. “Our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does.” Not only is He the Lord of creation, ordering the cycle of rain, the lightening, and the wind, but He is also the God of salvation who delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt and conquered all her enemies. Psalm 135 leads us in a renunciation of all worthless idols who have no power to create or save. Israel, Aaron, and Levi represent the whole congregation of the Old Testament Church. We, like the Old Testament Church, are called to bless the Lord for there is life and salvation in no other. *(Rev. Peter Bender)*

CATECHISM—The Our Father

Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Pre+
First Grade +

Second Grade +

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Day	Bible Stories for the Family	Second Reading
Sunday	<i>Divine Service</i>	
Monday	Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-25 Lucia, Martyr	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	The Nativity of Our Lord: Luke 2:1-7 Ambrose of Milan, Pastor & Hymnwriter	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	Midweek: Isaiah 2:2-5; Isaiah 7:10-15	Luke 1:26-38a
Thursday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds: Lk 2:8-14	Ex. 40:1-3, 16-21, 34-38
Friday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem: Luke 2:15-20 Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men	Isaiah 52:6-10
Saturday	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings:</i> Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-56	

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

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 this week:

LCMS District: Michigan District

LCMS Missionaries: The Hanson Family (South Korea); The Fritsche Family (Dom. Republic)

LCMS Education: Concordia Seminary—Saint Louis

Thanksgiving: For the joy of the assurance that Christ is coming to make all things new.

Sick & Recovering: Dale Harmon, Karen Adams, Red Stewart, Janice Harmon