

Congregation in Prayer Dec 6, 2015

Our Old Testament lesson is the prophecy concerning the first coming of Christ, a descendant of David. The Gospel lesson warns us to be prepared for His coming again. The message of Advent is this: watch and pray! As we wait, we wait with the confidence that He gives us all that we need to be prepared when He comes! [Mal 3:1-7b; Php 1:2-11; Lk 3:1-20]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Thanksgiving and Prayer

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

Matthew 24:27, 44 (ESV) For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

Second Petition <i>Thy kingdom come</i>	Pre-K+
What does this mean? <i>The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.</i>	Second Grade+
How does God's kingdom come? <i>God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and eternity</i>	Fifth Grade +

Daily Readings

Monday	Jesus Teaches Us to Pray in the Sermon on the Mount - Mt. 6:5-15
Tuesday	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer - John 17:1-26
Wednesday	Watch and Pray - Luke 21:25-36
Thursday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-45
Friday	Gabriel Appears to Zachariah - Luke 1:5-25

Daily Themes for Prayer: First Sunday of the month:

Sunday: Pray that the joy of the Resurrection would be seen in us; that the fruits of faith, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, would be evident in us and among us.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of your Baptism; for your calling and daily work; pray for your family members by name. Pray for those you know who are not yet believers in Jesus or who are unchurched that they would come to know and respond to the Savior's love for them.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance in the face of temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those caught in cycle of sinful behavior.

Wed: Pray for marriage and family: that husbands and wives, parents and children live in harmony according to the Word of God; for families devastated by divorce; for parents who must raise children alone.

Thursday: Pray for Christ's Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for the faithful and fruitful use of Word and Sacrament among us.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sharing of the Good News of His death and Resurrection in our neighborhoods and throughout the whole world. Pray for the sick and dying. Pray that you would have compassion for them and their families going through difficult days.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end for His people; 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 gifts of Word and Sacrament.

Lord's Prayer**Going with God's Blessing**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Zech 3:14-20

Php 4:4-7

Lk 7:18-28