

# The Congregation at Prayer

New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian, Indiana

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the week of the Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)

Beginning December 13, 2020

**Theme: “John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord”\***

*(Congregation speaks non-italic boldface text)*

## 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: Galatians 5:17 (ESV): “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”**

## Psalm 102:14-28

**The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer – The Fifth and Sixth Petitions\*\***

<b>And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.</b>	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> <b>We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.</b>	Second Grade +
<b>And lead us not into temptation.</b>	Preschool+
<i>What does this mean?</i> <b>God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.</b>	Third Grade+

## Readings for the week of the Third Sunday in Advent

Day	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Advent 3</b> —“Go and Tell John What You Hear and See”—Matthew 11:2-11	
Monday	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	Advent Midweek: Raised at Christ’s Coming—1 Corinthians 4:1-5	
Thursday	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14	Ex. 40:1-3, 16-21, 34-38
Friday	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20	Isaiah 52:6-10
Saturday	<b>Advent 4</b> —The Lord Will Raise up a Prophet Like Moses—Deut. 18:15-19	Philippians 4:4-7

**Prayers: 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.\*\*\***

*The Lord's Prayer (Fifth Petition):* Heavenly Father, we are not worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them. We ask that You would, by grace, grant us all that we ask for in the Lord's Prayer. Because you have been merciful and gracious to us, grant that we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer (Sixth Petition):* Heavenly Father, guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Grant that we may finally overcome these temptations and win the victory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

*The following: Kenneth, Bonnie, Kamala, and Kathryn Brandewie; Amanda, Justin, and Kyle Branstrator; Matthew Branstrator; Janice and Mattie Braun, Daniel, Roseli, Theodore, Samuel, Peter, Cornelius, and Lydia Burfiend.*

### **Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**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.\*\***

**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.\*\***

**The Hymn of the Week: "When All the World Was Cursed" (stanzas 1-2) LSB 346**

### ***Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent (Rorate Coeli)***

***December 20, 2020***

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 18:15–19  
Philippians 4:4–7  
John 1:19–28

**Theme: "John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah"\***

**Lectionary Summary:** "The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7)."\*

"The Congregation at Prayer" has been adapted from the model provided by Peter Bender, *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2011), 21-22 and the September 1, 2019 version at [peacesussex.org/downloads](http://peacesussex.org/downloads) (accessed 9/17/2019) as well as Peter Bender's Master Schedule for 2020-2021 academic year found at [www.lutherancatechesis.org/resource/](http://www.lutherancatechesis.org/resource/) (last accessed 12/02/2020).

\*Themes and lectionary summary provided by [www.lcms.org/worship/lectionary-summaries](http://www.lcms.org/worship/lectionary-summaries).

\*\*Catechism format for The Lord's Prayer adapted from the Lutheran Catechesis Learn-By-Heart Edition of Luther's Small Catechism (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 1998). Translation of Luther's Small Catechism: *Luther's Small Catechism* © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

\*\*\*Apostles' Creed and Collect of the Day provided by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.