



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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God's Word for the Week

For the First Week in Advent

November 27 - December 3, AD 2022

For **Orders of Daily Prayer (Matins & Vespers)**, see *The Lutheran Hymnal* pp. 32-45, pg. 4 of *Portals of Prayer*, or the *Daily Prayer for Families and Individuals* tri-fold. An individual or family may choose to utilize part or all of what follows in their devotional life during the coming week. May God's Word richly bless us as we read and pray.

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK: Advent is upon us! A New Church Year! And I thought that I'd ever so slightly change the way we do this "Catechesis Notes for the Week" section. I may reference the Small Catechism lesson, but I'm going to offer catechesis topics that are a little more varied from week to week. Today, I want write about the beauty of the Church Year. The View from the Pew mentions the Calendar as well, that we attend a church in which various seasons and holy days are observed.

This is a wonderful tradition, as it guides our devotional life as the pages on the calendar continue to come off. Using a Church Calendar certainly isn't necessary for Christians. In fact, Scripture warns against making too much out of the seasons of the year (Galatians 4:10)...but in the Church's tradition, we make attempts to do things in good order (1 Corinthians 7:35), and that includes our life together under the Word of God.

That's what really governs the Church Year. We are guided from the Church's preparation to receive Christ (first at Bethlehem, now in Word and Sacrament, and soon...in His glorious return!)...into the celebration of His birth and the visit of the Magi...from that great Epiphany upon the world to the high point of the season, Jesus' Transfiguration...and into the dark days of Lent, Holy Week, and Good Friday...which lead us to Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. Our days are ordered and numbered by the Word of God as we move through the life and Passion of Jesus.

During this season of Advent, how will you PREPARE the way of the LORD? Are you ready? It's a great time to dust off our Bibles and read some scripture. And we are doubly blessed since so many of our Advent favorite hymns are paraphrases of God's Word, set to music that enlightens our souls. Additionally, you can make plans to join us on Wednesday evenings for our Advent Midweek Vespers services in which we'll be looking at the Good News of Jesus from the perspective of four major figures in the early Gospels. We'll see you there!

VIEW FROM THE PEW: The church year is divided into three parts: the Time of Christmas, the Time of Easter and the Time of the Church. Today begins the Time of Christmas or as we know it Advent. Advent is Latin for "He's coming". These four Sundays before Christmas are dedicated to preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. The blue or violet colors in the church during this time say it is just not Christmas yet; we are taking our time and still getting ready. Ready for what?? We are waiting in hope for the King who will come and save us from our need to justify our lives with stuff of this world. While the world is running haphazardly, the Church is at peace waiting in anticipation for the birth of the King of peace. This is Advent....He's coming!!! Praise to God for the birth of a Savior!

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. *3 John 11*

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM FOR THE WEEK: *Psalm 122*

HYMN FOR THE WEEK: *Savior of the Nations, Come, TLH 95, LSB 332*

TIME IN THE SMALL CATECHISM: APOSTLES' CREED - THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth..

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them...

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS: *The following are taken from The Treasury of Daily Prayer. The readings form a continuous reading plan to read through the New Testament and nearly half of the Old Testament each year.*

Day | Daily Readings from *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, pg. 24ff.

Sun	Isaiah 1:1-28	<i>The Wickedness of Judah</i>	1 Peter 1:1-12	<i>Born to a Living Hope</i>
Mon	Isaiah 2:1-22	<i>The Mountain of the Lord</i>	1 Peter 1:13-25	<i>Called to Be Holy</i>
Tues	Isaiah 5:1-25	<i>The Vineyard of the Lord</i>	1 Peter 2:1-12	<i>A Living Stone and Holy People</i>
Wed	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	<i>Isaiah's Vision of the Lord</i>	1 Peter 2:13-25	<i>Submission to Authority</i>
Thurs	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	<i>The Sign of Immanuel</i>	1 Peter 3:1-22	<i>Suffering for Righteousness' Sake</i>
Fri	Isaiah 8:9-9:7	<i>Fear God, Wait for the Lord</i>	1 Peter 4:1-19	<i>Stewards of God's Grace</i>
Sat	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	<i>Judgment on Arrogance</i>	1 Peter 5:1-14	<i>Shepherd the Flock of God</i>

The following Psalms are suggestions for daily prayer, taken from Treasury of Daily Prayer, pg. 1436.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	120-125	132-135	139-140	144-146	1-5	9-11	15-17
Evening	126-131	136-138	141-143	147-150	6-8	12-14	18

IN ADDITION TO THOSE ON OUR CONGREGATION'S PRAYER LIST, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

BIRTHDAYS: Aimee Klepac (11/27), Caleb Tonn, Carolyn Jurk, Laurel Martin (11/29), Danny Jurk, Scott Schramm (11/30), Kaitlyn Shreiner (12/1), Justin Whited, Jr. (12/2), Sandra Lehmann (12/3)

ANNIVERSARIES: Ryan & Alicia Moerbe (13, 11/28), Harvey & Linda Hobratschk (55, 12/3)

MISSIONARIES: Rev James Krikava, and his wife, Peggy, career missionaries serving the Lord in the Czech Republic. Pastor Krikava serves as the regional director of the Eurasia Region (spanning from Norway to Russia! Pray for Pastor Krikava's oversight of the region and the

THOSE FACING PERSECUTION: Christians in Myanmar. In Myanmar, Christians are persecuted by Buddhist, Muslim, and other tribal families. They are shunned for leaving behind the religion into which they were born. Pray that Christians would remain faithful in their time of persecution and that their faithful witness would turn many more toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!

Kid's Corner: Proper planning prevents poor performance! That's the kid-appropriate version of that expression...have you planned your Advent!? I don't mean decorating the tree or buying presents for all the good little boys and girls...I mean, have you planned to spend a few extra minutes in God's word with your kids during these Advent days?

Advent is a great time to dig a little deeper into the Bible. Kids NEED to hear God's Word. It's the most important thing you'll ever do as a parent. If you've got questions about WHAT to read, or anything else related to Advent Devotions, let me know! I'd be happy to point you to some helpful resources.

I pray that this Advent would draw your entire family closer in faith toward Jesus and in joyous expectation of His return in glory!

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.

LUTHER'S 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.

UPCOMING LESSONS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12