

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
*Third Sunday in Advent*  
*December 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>*

***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*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.*

**Theme:** Christ Is Born

***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: Matthew 1:18***

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.”

**Catechism:**

**“The Sacrament of Holy Baptism”**

***What does such baptizing with water indicate?***

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

***Where is this written?***

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:4)

***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.

***Hymn***

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**#357 Stanzas 1 & 4**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,  
Free them from Satan’s tyranny  
That trust Thy might pow’r to save,  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*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.**

*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.**

“Here we learn to know the second person of the Godhead and get to see what God gives us over and above the temporal blessings mentioned before – how He has poured Himself out completely for us, not withholding anything of Himself from us. This article is a very rich and far-reaching one, but for a brief simple treatment, we shall take only one of its phrases and by means of it lay hold on the entire substance of this article. With the purpose of learning how we were redeemed, we shall here focus on these words, ‘in Jesus Christ, our Lord’.”

*Large Catechism, Second Article*

### ***Readings for the Week***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Monday	Matthew 1:19-25: Jesus' Birth Foretold
Tuesday	Daniel 10
Wednesday	Daniel 11:1-28
Thursday	Daniel 11:29-45
Friday	Daniel 12:1-13
Saturday	Catch Up

### **In Our Prayers this Week:**

We celebrate with Richard & Marian Weishahn in honor of their 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary December 11.

Judy Braun, Irene Daubendiek, Berniece Pfingsten, Darlene Scheideler

Continuing Prayers: Lodeen Clausen, Dawn Crosier, Loren Daubendiek, Leonard Esch, June Martin

Missing: Ann Kelley

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***Looking forward to Fourth Sunday in Advent***

***December 18, 2016***

***Hymns:*** 344, 357, 383, 818, 346, 511

***Lessons:*** Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7;  
John 1:19-28

**Hymn of the Week**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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