

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The fourth week of Advent*

*December 18-24, 2022*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** The second petition teaches us that God's kingdom dwells in our hearts by the Holy Spirit's work in Word and Sacraments. Christ is enthroned in our hearts fighting off temptation for us and leading us to a godly life. By grace God gives us this kingdom not because of our works or worthiness. The only other kingdom is Satan's kingdom, which is bent on ripping God's kingdom out of the hearts of believers by any means possible. The second petition shows us that we have viewed Satan's kingdom with indifference, and so have trusted in our knowledge or ability to fend off Satan's kingdom rather than fleeing to our King. Thus, we have fallen from godly living and into sins. It calls us to repentance and faith in our God who established His kingdom in our hearts and keeps us secure in it.

The third petition teaches us that God's will is for all to enter His kingdom and keep His name holy through faith. In short, God's will is that all are saved. To accomplish this, He breaks and destroys every evil plan and purpose that would keep His people from His heaven, and He continually strengthens us by Word and Sacrament so we are saved. The third petition shows us that our wills are not always in line with God's. We don't always desire the salvation of all, but are content to let others persist in false belief. We have been timid in confessing Christ through word and actions since we know it will cause us to stand out. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who wills all to be saved and then accomplishes it on His cross and gives it in His Baptism.

## ***Theme: The Lord is among us.***

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

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**HYMN:** Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

**BIBLE VERSE:** *1 Peter 5:7-8 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

<i>What is the 2nd petition?</i> Thy kingdom come.	Preschool+
<i>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.	1st Grade+
<i>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 there in eternity.	2nd Grade+
<i>What is the third petition?</i> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Preschool+

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.</p>	1st Grade+
<p><i>How is God's will done?</i> God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.</p>	3rd Grade+

<b>DAILY READING</b>		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Mt 3:13-17	297
Tuesday	Lk 10:25-37	364
Wednesday	Lk 7:36-50	339
Thursday	Jn 3:1-15	313
Friday	1 Sa 17:38-50	180-182
Saturday	Micah 5:2-5; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14	Lk 2 - 290

**Prayer:**

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

**Example:**

*Repeat the Second Petition*

*A teaching: Dear Father, in the second petition You teach me that Your kingdom comes to me by the Spirit who comes through Your Word and Sacraments.*

*A thanksgiving: I thank You bringing your kingdom to me in the past and also today.*

*A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have not lived like a citizen in Your kingdom. I have been bored with Your Word and so bored with Your kingdom.*

*A prayer: I ask You to forgive me by giving me Your Spirit in the Word and Sacraments so I may remain in Your kingdom forever.*

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

**Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

**Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

**Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

**Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

**Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

**Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

**Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

#### Prayer for Advent 4

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech You, Your power and come: and rescue us by Your great mighty; that with the help of Your grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy and satisfaction, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever.

#### Luther's Morning/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.

#### 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.