

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Third Sunday in Advent – Gaudete
December 15 – December 21, AD 2024

Our bodies are precious to God. He is the one who knit us together in our mothers' wombs. He is the one who took on our flesh that He might redeem it. He is the one who has promised the resurrection of the body to everlasting life. Your body is not a thing to be despised. It is not your personal property to do with as you please. It belongs to God and in Holy Baptism God has made your body the temple of the Holy Spirit. You are not to abuse your body with harmful substances. You are to give your body the things that it needs. You are to get rest. You are to work. You are to play. Yet so often we treat our bodies as ours to do with as we choose. We abuse them. We deprive them of good and use them for evil. We live as though they are only vehicles for personal pleasure rather than as God's means of doing good in the world for our neighbor. We destroy them in life and death as though we gave them to ourselves. When the Lord commands us not to hurt or harm our neighbor's body, that includes harming our own. Like our neighbor, we have been created in God's image. We, the whole we - body and soul - belong to God. He created us. He alone has the authority to bring our life to its conclusion. Let us repent of the harm we inflict upon our own bodies and the body of our neighbors and seek mercy from the One who offered His body in perfect service to God as the perfect sacrifice for our sin. And God grant that we use our bodies always to His honor and glory alone and treasure them as precious gifts from Him.

The Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. 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.

The Ten Commandments – The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

INVOCATION

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

Psalm 51:17 – The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 25

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (LSB 334)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC4Ctxw_WKo

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

① SUNDAY	MATTHEW 11:2-11	
② MONDAY	2 KINGS 9:1-37	1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34
③ TUESDAY	2 KINGS 10:1-36	1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-31
④ WEDNESDAY	LUKE 1:39-56	MICAH 5:2-5A
⑤ THURSDAY	2 KINGS 11:1-21	1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13
⑥ FRIDAY	2 KINGS 12:1-16	1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-19
⑦ SATURDAY	DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19	PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

SATURDAY – ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE, JOHN 20:24-29

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY: *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

MONDAY: *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

TUESDAY: *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

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

THURSDAY: *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

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

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Those in our congregation who are homebound: Judy Michels, Melanie Obenhaus, Vicky Cantrell, Dony Reaves, Connie Kimber, Tula Sheehan.
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Jeff Ellis (15), Brian Hendon (16).
- Baptismal birthdays celebrated this week: Brian Hendon (16).
- Wedding anniversaries celebrated this week: Bill and Amanda Curry (16), Greg and Ann Sims (17).
- Tom Johnson’s family and friends as they mourn his death, that they may find comfort and peace in Christ Jesus.
- Pastor Heath as he deliberates the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Faith Plano.
- Robin Hauth’s sister, Jill, who is recovering from eye surgery.
- Ninette DeYoung as she recovers from brain surgery this past week.
- Those experiencing unemployment: Matt and Michael.
- Emma Casanova, Brianna Mallon, Renae Womack for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Rachel Preuss (wife of Rev. Samuel Preuss), who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer and is pregnant with their sixth child.
- Dony Reaves, Chris Purcell, Connie Kimber, Tula Sheehan, Doug Drawe, Antonia, Deanna, Devin Jackson, Greg McClure, Dana Evans, Rush, Christina Null, Sharon, Gaye, Georgette, Tim Sheehan, the Traugott family, Dan Kostoff.



THE LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

The Fourth Sunday in Advent (Rorate Coreli) – December 22, 2024

Catechism: The Ten Commandments – The Sixth Commandment

Hymns: 334, 357, 624, 343, 333, 366, 354

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Philippians 4:4-7, John 1:19-28

