

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Fourth Sunday in Advent – Rorate Coeli
December 22 – December 28, AD 2024

Living as a Christian in the midst of this sinful world requires constant vigilance and prayer. Though we are trying to walk according to the commandments, the world is not and will not stop putting temptation in the way. Ask Joseph about his time in Egypt. Joseph was faithfully going about his vocation serving in the house of Potiphar. But Potiphar's wife had other ideas. She wanted to be unfaithful to her husband. She wanted to draw Joseph into adultery. She tried again and again but by God's grace Joseph resisted. Certainly, this required much prayer on Joseph's part. Hadn't he suffered enough? Shouldn't he be allowed to indulge his flesh in some way? No. The commands of God are clear. "You shall not commit adultery" and "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." Joseph disciplined his flesh and mind by the power of the Holy Spirit and resisted the temptation and it cost him. As the world when it doesn't get what it wants, so Potiphar's wife, when she was denied her sin, falsely accused Joseph and had him thrown back in prison. But Joseph would rather that then endure the temporal and eternal wrath of God. Likewise, we should expect that the world and our flesh will hate it when we choose God's commandments and will try to punish us for doing so. Pray to God. Ask that He grant you His Holy Spirit so that you would be strengthened against the temptation to adultery and other sins and the hatred of the world as it not only floods you with temptation but also seeks to punish you for obeying the Word of God.

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 Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

① SUNDAY	JOHN 1:19-28	
② MONDAY	MATTHEW 1:18-25	1 JOHN 4:7-16
③ TUESDAY	LUKE 2:1-20	TITUS 2:11-14
④ WEDNESDAY	JOHN 1:1-18	TITUS 3:4-7
⑤ THURSDAY	ACTS 6:8—7:2A, 51-60	MATTHEW 23:34-39
⑥ FRIDAY	JOHN 21:20-25	1 JOHN 1:1—2:2
⑦ SATURDAY	MATTHEW 2:13-18	JEREMIAH 31:15-17

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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

- For all who serve in public safety as police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, that God would protect them, give them courage in danger, and grant them wisdom as they perform their duties, especially Joshan Savage (police officer), Joe Krizan (firefighter and paramedic), Elisabeth Handgraaf, Will McCrillis, Jonah Underwood (paramedics).
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Nancy Cawood (23), Alexander Rose (24), David Horn (25).
- Baptismal birthdays celebrated this week: Alissa Ulmer (23), Rachel Schwiesow (24), Leland Gardner (26), James Rose (27).
- Pastor Heath as he deliberates the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Faith Plano.
- Those experiencing unemployment: Matt and Michael.
- Kristina Wishmeyer, sister of Dony Reaves, suffering from Stiff Person Syndrome and terrible pain.
- Emma Casanova and Brianna Mallon for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- 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, Jill, Ninette DeYoung, Rachel Preuss.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

The First Sunday after Christmas – December 29, 2024

Catechism: The Sacrament of Baptism – The Second Part

Hymns: 519, 389, 617, 382, 333, 379, 375

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-5, Galatians 4:1-7, Luke 2:22-40

