

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Gaudete - Third Sunday of Advent

December 14-20, 2008

The Church Calendar

December 17 – Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men

Daniel the prophet and the three young men – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – were among the leaders of the people of Judah who were taken into captivity in Babylon. Even in that foreign land, they remained faithful to the one true God in their piety, prayer, and life. On account of such steadfast faithfulness in the face of pagan idolatry, the three young men were thrown into a fiery furnace, from which they were saved by the Lord and emerged unharmed. (Daniel 3)

Similarly, Daniel was thrown into a pit of lions, from which he was also saved (Daniel 6). Blessed in all their endeavors by the Lord – and despite the hostility of some – Daniel and the three young men were promoted to positions of leadership among the Babylonians.

The Great “O” Antiphon

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

(Taken from The Treasury of Daily Prayer - CPH)

The Daily Office

V: O Lord, open my lips;

R: and my mouth will declare your praise

V: Make haste, O God, to + deliver me;

R: make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

The Readings (Sunday-Saturday)

	Psalmody	Old Testament	New Testament
Sun	27:1-14	Isaiah 30:15-26	Revelation 2:1-29
Mon	146:1-7	Isaiah 30:27-31:9	Revelation 3:1-22
Tue	149	Isaiah 32:1-20	Revelation 4:1-11
Wed	40:1-5, 16-17	Isaiah 33:1-24	Revelation 5:1-14
Thu	119:81-88	Isaiah 34:1-35:10	Revelation 6:1-17
Fri	103:11-18	Isaiah 40:1-17	Revelation 7:1-17
Sat	119:25-32	Isaiah 40:18-41:10	Revelation 8:1-13

Optional: Large Catechism Preface-1:112-178

The Catechism

The Ten Commandments

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those love Me and keep My commandments."

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

Hymn

LW14 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

The Lord's Prayer (prayed together)

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.

The Creed (confessed by all)

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.

The Litany

V: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: And let my cry come to You.

V: In the day of my trouble I call to you

R: For You answer me.

V: Hide Your face from my sins.

R: And blot out all my iniquity.

V: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

R: And renew a right spirit within me.

V: Do not cast me away from Your presence.

R: And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

V: Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

R: And uphold me with a willing Spirit.

V: Because Your lovingkindness is better than life.

R: My lips shall praise You

V: Because You have been my help.

R: Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

V: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth.

R: Give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name.

V: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

R: I will glorify Your name forever.

V: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

R: May those who love Your salvation always say, Let God be exalted.

V: Save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

R: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

V: Hear my prayer, O Lord.

R: Listen to my cry for mercy.

The Collect

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

In our prayers: Pastor, Richard Eaches, Jackie Caudill, Doug Thomas, Sam Cooper, Rev. Leonard Riddle

Luther's Evening Prayer (prayed together)

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 wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

V: Let us bless the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

V: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, + and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.