

**1** **Invocation** *make the sign of the cross and say...*

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

**2** **The 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 .

**3** **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.

**4** **Morning or 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.

## 5 Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks

### *Blessing before meal*

“The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” (Ps. 145: 15–16)

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### *Returning Thanks after meal*

“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” (Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

## 6 Pray the Psalms

Advent	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	24, 150	122, 145	33, 146	50, 147:1-12	18:1-20, 147:13-21	102, 148	90, 149
Evening	25, 110	40, 67	85, 94	53, 17	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72

## 7 Verse of the Week: **Matthew 11:10b**

Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

## 8 Daily Lectionary Readings

**Sunday** .....Isaiah 13:1-13; Hebrews 12:18-29; John 3:22-30

**Monday** .....Isaiah 8:16-9:1; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Luke 22:39-53

**Tuesday**.....Isaiah 9:2-7; 2 Peter 1:12-21; Luke 22:54-69

**Wednesday** ....Isaiah 9:8-17; 2 Peter2:1-10a; Mark 1:1-8

**Thursday** .....Isaiah 9:18-10:4; 2 Peter 2:10b-16; Matthew 3:1-12

**Friday** .....Isaiah 10:5-19; 2 Peter 2:17-22; Matthew 11:2-15

**Saturday** .....Isaiah 11:1-9; Jude 17-25; Luke 3:1-9

## **9** The Collect for the Week

**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.

## **10** Catechism Portion for the Week

**The First Article (Part 3) of the Apostles' Creed** – In Matthew 14 we read of Jesus feeding a great crowd. In the account we learn that there were five thousand men. This is not even counting women and children! And Jesus miraculously did this with five loaves and two fish! Not only is this a miracle, it is a demonstration of our heavenly Father's generosity. It is abundant! And this abundant generosity only serves to illustrate in dramatic fashion how God generously supplies us every day. This daily provision is no less miraculous! For after all, do we come up with seeds and plants? Did we create the animals and fish? Everything on our daily tables has its source from God's almighty hand. None of us is self-sufficient. We each receive life and support from outside ourselves. As Christians, we confess that every good thing, even the seemingly insignificant, comes to us as an undeserved gift from God.

## **11** Portion of the Catechism and Luther's Explanation

### **The First Article**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

### **What does this mean for us?**

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

*All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

## 12

### Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism

**Prayer based on the First Article (Part 3) of the Apostles' Creed** - Heavenly Father, out of Your fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, You have created me and endowed me with all that I have in this body and life, and You continue to defend me from all danger and guard and protect me from all evil. Receive now my thanks and praise for all of Your gifts, and shape my life to serve and obey You in the callings which You have given me; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen. [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 145]

## 13

### Intercessory Prayer

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ✝ Heather Roll (breast cancer)                                 | Schoonover's sister with breast and stomach cancer)    |
| ✝ Jenny Whitman (friends of the Benruds paralyzed from a fall) | ✝ Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain. |
| ✝ Bev Kuehn (regulating medicines and dealing with diabetes)   |  |
| ✝ Heather Wesner (Jessica                                      |  |

## 14

### Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday's Lessons

**357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:** *stnz 1* O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! *stnz 2* O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain...** *stnz 3* O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain...** *stnz 4* O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain...** *stnz 5* O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **Refrain...** *stnz 6* O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain...** *stnz 7* O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.

**Refrain...** Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Text: Public domain

**For December 22, 2024, Fourth Sunday in Advent:** **Micah 5:2-5a** Out of you, Bethlehem, will come a ruler of Israel.; **Psalms 80:1-7** "Restore us, O God; let Your face shine."; **Hebrews 10:5-10** We have been made holy through Jesus.; **Luke 1:39-56** Mary visits Elizabeth.