

Midweek Prayer, second week of Advent

December 6 – December 12, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Prayer in the home

These pages are a brief devotion for use in the home at morning or evening, with a different Scripture and additional reading for each week in Advent. The appropriate number of candles on your Advent wreath (or your grouping of four candles) may be lighted as the liturgy begins.

Note on the Scripture: the readings from Scripture are chosen to reflect on the themes for the week that the Sunday readings introduced.



Centering and Gathering

Light the first and second candles on your Advent wreath.

ADVENT DIALOG – *may be spoken with another person or by yourself*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

Word

PRAYER (*Martin Luther's Evening Prayer, from the Small Catechism*)

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angels be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

If more than one are praying together: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:31-39

Paul writes: ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who

indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

POEM: “Not Towards the Stars”

Not towards the stars, O beautiful naked runner,
not on the hills of the moon after a wild white deer,
seek not to discover afar the unspeakable wisdom,-
the quarry is here.

Beauty holds court within, –
a slim young virgin in a dim shadowy place.
Music is only the echo of her voice,
and earth is only a mirror for her face.

Not in the quiet arms, O sorrowful lover;
O fugitive, not in the dark on a pillow of breast;
hunt not under the lighted leaves for God, –
here is the sacred Guest.

There is a Tenant here.
Come home, roamer of earth, to this room and find
a timeless Heart under your own heart beating,
a Bird of beauty singing under your mind.

Not toward the stars, “The Kingdom of God” by Jessica Powers (Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit, 1905-1988) in *The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers* (Washington, D.C.: Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1999), p. 20.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS *Pray for loved ones, the Church, the world, and all in need.*

LORD’S PRAYER *Pray the Lord’s Prayer.*

CLOSING PRAYER *(prayer for Peace, for centuries part of Vespers in the Lutheran tradition)*

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. Amen

BENEDICAMUS AND BLESSING – *may be spoken with another person or by yourself*

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

