

Midweek Prayer, third week of Advent

December 13 – December 19, 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 three 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

READING: Philippians 4:4-9

Paul writes: ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

POEM: “A rose touched by the sun’s warm rays”

A rose touched by the sun’s warm rays
All its petals gently does unfold.
So you when touched by God’s great mercy
Let joy and gladness win your soul.

A rose touched by the sun’s warm rays, Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)
from *Geistliches Blumen-Gärtlein*, p. 462, tr. by Jean Berger, found in a Pennsylvania Dutch
fraktur inscription in the book *Die aufgehende Lilie* belonging to Maria Brubacher, 1825.

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.

