

## The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

### For the Week of Advent 1

*November 29 – December 4, 2021*

### The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*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 permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

**Invocation:** In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Speak the Apostles' Creed.**

**Verse: Philippians 1:6** – *“I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

**Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #344** *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

**Readings for the Week** [*The readings for Thursday-Saturday are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.*]

<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 66:1-12	<i>What does it mean that God “tests” us? How does He do this? Why? Is this always pleasant? How can we rejoice in it?</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Malachi 4:1-6	<i>There will be two kinds of people when Jesus comes again. Who are they? How are they different? Why does God send “Elijah?”</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Luke 21:25-36	<i>There will be signs when Jesus comes again. Will we see them? What might distract us from them? Why?</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Malachi 3:1-7b	<i>We need purifying and cleansing before Jesus comes again. Why? How does He do this for us? What do we then do?</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Philippians 1:2-11	<i>Paul is in prison, but who is he concerned for? Why?</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Luke 3:1-20	<i>John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance? But what else did he tell the people? Why?</i>

**The Catechism – The Lord’s Prayer: The Introduction** – Our Father who art in heaven. *What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear Father.

**Collect for the Week:** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Prayers:** Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
- + the homeless, that they receive a place to live and get back on their feet again.
- + God’s blessing, wisdom, and guidance for our congregational financial secretary, Dave Fields.
- + the Lutheran Church in the Philippines, for God’s wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
- + God’s blessing, guidance, provision, and strength for Pastor Douthwaite in his role as Circuit Visitor.

*Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.*

***Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!***

## **In our prayers this week, we remember:**

**Eric**, with multiple medical needs, and **Neely** (former member) and **Lee** (friend of TJ and Randy) soon in need of a kidney transplant.

**Charles** (missionary we support) for healing, strength, and peace.

**Walt** (friend of Ray Powers), **Erika** (Sarah Soisson's grandmother), **Nikki** (niece of Kathy Kielmeyer), **Josephine** (sister-in-law of Eric Blaesing), for continued recovery, healing, and strength, and **Roger** (friend of the Nelsons) with severe and recurring health problems.

**Carris Vondal, Lisa Votraw, and Susan Cassell**, for protection, healing, and strength.

For those who are elderly and/or homebound: **Roy Clark** and **Reinhardt Wing**.

**The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families** for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

**Eva Marsh, Jonathan Malekzadeh, Jacque** (Mickey Vondal's sister), and **Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé) for Your continued strength and healing.

**Hilary Clark** and **Taylor** (Susan Cassell's nephew's wife) **and their babies**, for safe and healthy pregnancies.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Nancy Nelson, Mary Ann Wright** (former member), **Tom** (Pastor's neighbor), **Neal** (Grace's uncle), **Gemma** (friend of the Wings), **Dwight** (Hillary's uncle), **Adrienne** (sister of Haynes Earnhardt), **Shirley and Barb** (aunts of Kathy Kielmeyer), **Pam** (friend of the Vondal family), **Kristen** (cousin of Elise Mertz), **Jill** (Nancy Nus' sister-in-law), **Carol** (friend of the Fields family), **Debbie** (Barbara Power's sister), and **Kristen** (friend of the Killians).

**Kristoffer Rush** (Richard and Lena's son) and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth Libby), for strength, help, hope, and faith.

**Sahilis** (Viviana's sister), **Scott** (friend of Scott Killian), **Thomas** (Angels Keiser's brother) **and their families**, and **Traci** (friend of Elizabeth Libby), for Your unity, protection, peace, and faith.

**Leslie, Dorris, and their children** (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

**Fatma** (friend of our church), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth Libby), and **Tamim and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For our adopted seminarians, **Aaron Schultz** and **Emmett Bartens**

For the **Wolf family** (missionaries to Africa), **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (mission work in Philadelphia), and **Rev. Charles St-Onge** (mission work in Quebec and mission facilitator in the Caribbean), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For those serving our country in the military: **Juliana Wing, Joshua Ecker, and John Boling** (friend of the Vondals).

For our catechumens: **Noah and Hilary Clark, Christie Keiser, and Leander Wing**

For our college students: **Kitty Fields, Caleb Hoverson, Rachel Keiser, Elise Mertz, and Sarah Nus**.

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Randy and TJ Myers**

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless a future **deaf mission at St. Athanasius, our mission church, Hope Lutheran Church, in Purcellville**, and **our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County**.

Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Peter Brondos  
Vice President: Scott Killian  
Recording Secretary: TJ Myers  
Treasurer: Logan Hansen  
Financial Secretary: Dave Fields  
Executive Board, Member-at-Large: Anthony Johnson

Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian  
Board of Evangelism and Outreach: Hillary Johnson, Nancy Nus  
Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Jonathan Malekzadeh

Building Committee: Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Scott Killian  
Investment Committee: Logan Hansen, Anthony Johnson, and Scott Killian  
Social Media Coordinator: Rachel Hebert  
Commission on Mercy: Nancy Nelson and Grace Killian  
Deaf Ministry Advisory Group: Janet Rosenberry, Leah Vigil, Michelle Wing  
Sunday School Teachers: Laurie Douthwaite, Hillary Johnson, Scott and Grace Killian, and Elise Mertz

**About this Sunday: The First Sunday of Advent**  
Order of Service: Divine Service 3 (page 184)

*The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us*

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, “a righteous Branch” descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts “blameless in holiness before our God and Father” (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be “distress of nations in perplexity,” with “people fainting with fear.” Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: “Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).



@saint.a.church



saint.athanasius

## This Week at Saint Athanasius

Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday, November 29	Youth Catechism, 3:00 pm
	<b>Last Monday @ Malek's</b>
Tuesday, November 30	Prayer Service, 12:05 pm
Wednesday, December 1	Advent Evening Prayer Service, 7:30 pm
Thursday, December 2	Prayer Service, 12:05 pm
	Commission on Mercy, 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 5	<i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i>
	Hope Lutheran Mission Divine Service, 2:00 pm

**Next week's hymns: 354, 357 (v. 2), 344, 622, 347, 845, 353**

**Annual Report:** The Saint Athanasius Annual Report will be available for you *next week*. Make sure you get your copy and please read it over so that you are prepared for our Annual Meeting and come with any questions you might have. This will help us streamline the meeting and make things more efficient. Thanks!

**Our Annual Meeting Congregation Voters Meeting** is in **two weeks**, on **December 12<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following the Divine Service. We will also have a Pot Luck Luncheon while we meet, so please bring a dish to two to share. This is an important annual meeting, so please plan to stay a little after the service. Thanks!

**Midweek Advent Vespers Services** start this week for the next three Wednesdays. Take a break during this busy time of year for the Word of God and prayer as we think about the Advent theme of waiting and consider *How We Wait*. Join us!

**Last Monday:** Tomorrow is the Last Monday of the month, and so Malek's will be donating 25% of their sales to **Hope Academy**, to help provide schooling, housing, support, and mentoring for orphans in Kenya. Come any time during the day, enjoy a good meal, and support a good cause! Dine-in, carry out, or delivery.

**Voting Privileges in our Congregation:** All communicant members in good standing of our church who are 18 years of age and older and have been members of Saint Athanasius for 6 months are eligible to become voting members of the congregation and vote in our Voters Meetings. Are you a voter? Not sure? Want to be? Talk to President Pete Brondos for more information.

**Opportunity for Service:** Did you know you don't have to be at church to serve? One of the best ways you can serve your fellow Athanasians is to pray for them. Pray for Pastor Douthwaite, use your church directory to pray for all your fellow Athanasians, pray for our outreach into the community, and much more. And be assured of this: God will hear and answer your prayers - always!

**Life Thought:** "Creation is preaching a message about its Creator. He is wise. Kind. Brilliant. Powerful. Limitless. Combine those qualities with His reckless love for us found on the cross, and you have a God who can strengthen trembling hearts and weak knees. You have a Creator worth worshipping." *Rev. Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**More Topics, More Guests, More Jesus** . . . Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Advent Hymn "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," Encouragement for Christians in World of Darkness, A Lutheran View of Transgenderism, The Socialist Attack on the Family, Jesus' Transfiguration and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**Coming Soon** (*Mark your calendars!*) . . .

Advent Evening Prayer Services, December 1, 8, 15

Annual Congregational Voters Meeting, December 12



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of "**Phil's Friends!**" See Nancy Nelson or Grace Killian for more information.