

Scripture Lessons for ☪ the First Midweek in Advent

PSALMODY Psalm 119:12-27 NIV Praise be to You, O LORD; teach me Your decrees. 13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from Your mouth. 14 I rejoice in following Your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15 I meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways. 16 I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your Word. 17 Do good to Your servant, and I will live; I will obey Your Word. 18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law. 19 I am a stranger on earth; do not hide Your commands from me. 20 My soul is consumed with longing for Your laws at all times. 21 You rebuke the arrogant, who are cursed and who stray from your commands. 22 Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. 23 Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. 24 Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. 25 I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to Your Word. 26 I recounted my ways and You answered me; teach me Your decrees. 27 Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on Your wonders.

Lection, Reading

Luther's Catechism: Lord's Prayer Introduction, Address

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,

What Does This Mean?

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear fathers.

Luther's Catechism: Lord's Prayer First Petition

Hallowed be Thy Name,

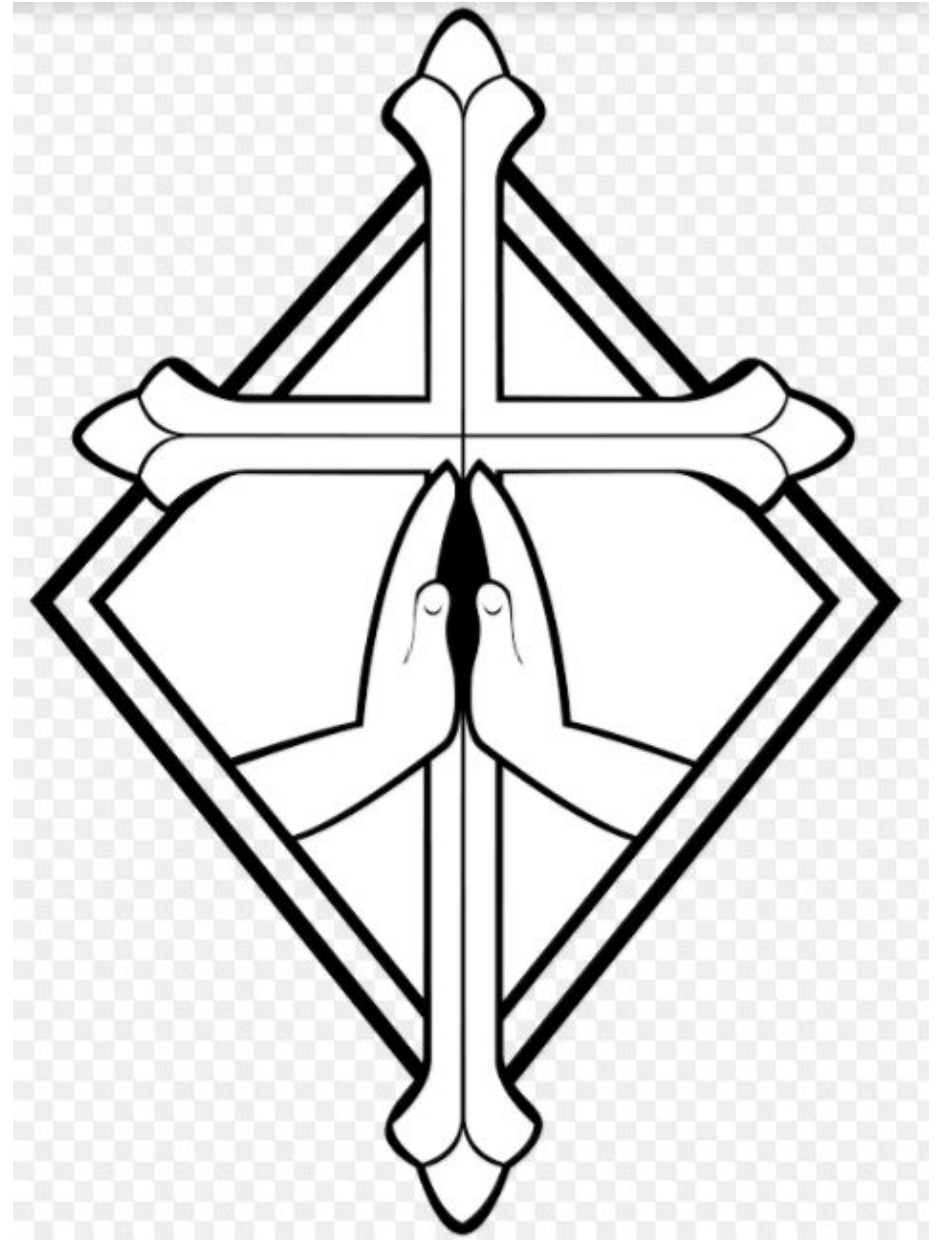
What Does This Mean?

We know that God's Name is certainly holy in Itself, but we pray in this Petition that It may be holy among us also. ***How is God's Name Hallowed?***

God's Name is kept holy when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in Heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God's Name among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father!

GOSPEL John 1:14-18 The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, Who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
1st Midweek in Advent ☪ *Oratio* = "Prayer in the Word"
Advent 2017 ✕ December 6th, 2017, 4:30 pm



Historic Church Year Symbol for Advent-1 Midweek: Oratio = Prayer

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On the gold liturgy sheets or BLACK Hymnary p.120

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	110 (7v)	<i>Sing vv. 1-4 O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i>
Hymn of the Day	94 (4v)	<i>Sing vv. 1-4 O, How Shall I Receive Thee</i>
<i>Canticle (Hymn)</i>	385 (3v)	What A Friend We Have in Jesus
Closing Hymn	110 (5-7)	<i>Sing vv. 5-7 O Come, Thou Key of David, ...</i>

PRAYER *Everlasting God, Who, by the mouths of Your prophets and saints of old, proclaimed the Advent of Your Son, our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, the Desire of all nations, the Hope of Israel, the Redeemer of the world: Lead us to repent of all our sins, and so to humble ourselves that we may be prepared to receive Him with gladness and to join in singing: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the LORD! Amen.*

Midweek I: Oratio (Wednesday, December 6th 2017)

INTRODUCTION Everything about Advent announces that the Lord is present to redeem and rescue His people. He has given us **His Holy Name** that we may call upon Him and live holy lives here in time and thereafter in eternity.

- God's Word gives us His Name** (Lord's Prayer: Intro. & 1st Petition)
- With His Name we have His Promise:**
All Those who call on His Name will be Saved
- God's Name is Kept Holy when we call on His Name with our lips and honor it in lives of faith and love.**

Oratio is prayer grounded in the Word of God. *"When we use His Word to pray, we pray by the Spirit"* (Kleinig, 172). Like David who was given the Words of the Lord and so prays that God who lead and guide Him so our mouths are opened to call upon God for all that He promises. The oratio is embodied in the **Introduction and First Petition of the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism**. We can call God "Our Father" because **He has given us His Son**. The Holy Spirit has brought us to faith in the Son through the Gospel. It is in this faith that we know that it is most certainly true that God is our Father.

The **Three Articles** of the Creed are also **reversible**. It is the **Holy Spirit** Who brings us to **Christ Jesus**; our Lord Who has made us His own by His innocent suffering and death. We are located in His Kingdom, where we live under Him, serving Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness even as He is risen from the dead to live and reign for all eternity. In Him we have boldness and confidence to enter into the presence of His **Father**, Who is now **our Father**.

The Blessed One who Comes in the Name of the Lord **gives us access to His Father**. Luther reminds us that God's name is certainly holy in itself but we pray that it may be kept holy among us. This is done when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity and we as His children lead holy lives according to it. Notice here how the Catechism's explanation resonate with the words of **Psalm 119** where we implore God to *"Deal bountifully with your servant that I may live and keep your word"* (**Psalm 119:17**) and again *"Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous work"* (**Psalm 119:27**). God's Word is heard and pondered in this Psalm so that

"Petition and confession again and again modulate into praise and thanksgiving" (H.J. Kraus, Psalms 11:415).

This modulation is also reflected in many of the hymns of Advent. For example:

***"Fling wide the portals of your heart; - Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ; - Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in - And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise - For Word and deed and grace!"*** (ELH #91 v4)

The posture of Advent is prayer, calling out to the Lord Who **has come**, Who comes to us **now** in His Word, and **will come again** at the end to take us to Himself. In the meantime we wait not as those live in confusion and uncertainty but as dear children of God who have learned and continue to learn that God is our true Father and we are His true children so that we might make our petitions to Him as dear children coming before a dear father "with boldness and confidence."

The Lord has come to us. He is **the Word made Flesh**. The Scriptures which His **Spirit inspired prophets and apostles to write testify to Him**. It is in and through the Holy Scriptures that Christ Jesus gives Himself to us. Without the Holy Scriptures we would not know His Words are "spirit and life" (**John 6:63**). We listen to the Scriptures read and preached so that we might know Christ and His benefits, His words of promise give us the courage to call on Him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer asserted *"The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart"* (*"Psalms"* p.15). It is for this reason that the Psalmist confesses his delight in the Lord's Words (**Psalm 16**) and implores God to give him understanding that he may mediate on the Lord's wondrous works.

Our Advent Oratio is ever **"Come, Lord Jesus."** He is near to all who call upon His Name and He has promised to hear us and save us.

CONCLUSION The **Catechism** reminds us that God's Holy Name is given to us that **we may call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks**. For the Christian, Advent is much more than a hectic season of preparation for the festivities of Christmas. Advent is the Christian life in miniature. It is listening to the Words of the Lord and learning ever again from His Word that we are His holy children blessed with His Name in Baptism. With His on our lips, we call upon Him in the midst of this world's chaos, with our own lives lacerated by sin, and in the face of death, trusting only in His promises for the sake of the Son He sent to be our Brother and Savior. Call upon Him now in this day of trouble. He will you and you shall glorify Him. **IJN, Amen. SDG**

***"Enter now my waiting heart, - Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, - Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when - Thou art my guest divinest***

***Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! - Jesus hear our supplication!
Let Thy Kingdom, scepter, crown, - Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: - Hail! Hosanna to our King."*** (ELH #88, v2&4).