

Scripture Lessons for   the Second Midweek in Advent

Psalmody

Psalm 119:97-104; 129-133 NIV Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long. 98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on Your statutes. 100 I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey Your precepts. 101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey Your Word. 102 I have not departed from Your laws, for You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. ... 129 Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. 130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. 131 I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands. 132 Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love Your Name. 133 Direct my footsteps according to Your Word; let no sin rule over me.

Lecture, Reading

Luther's Catechism: Lord's Prayer Second Petition

Thy Kingdom come,

What Does This Mean?

The Kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's Kingdom come?

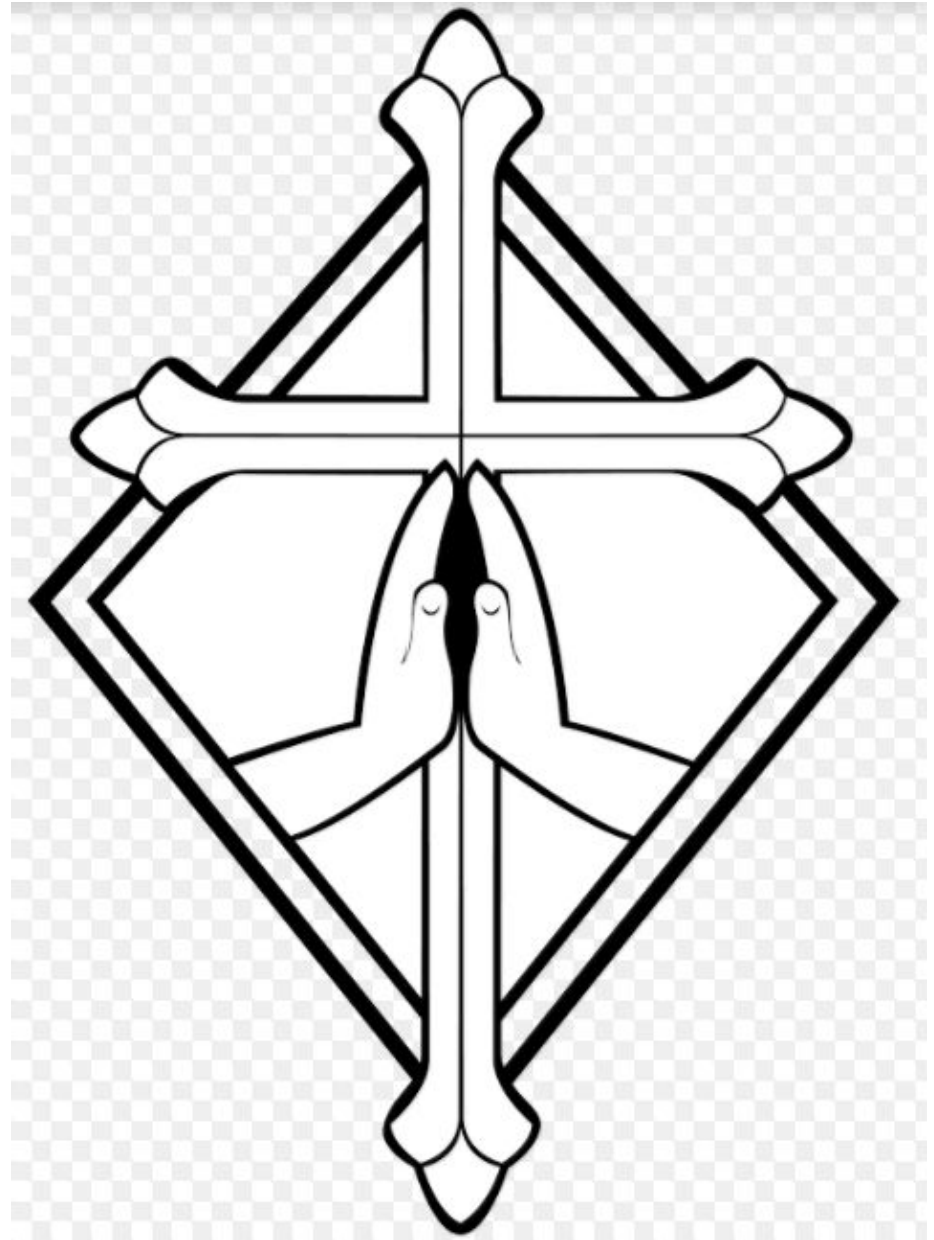
The Kingdom of God comes when our Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in Eternity.



Gospel

John 3:16-21 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
2nd Midweek in Advent   *Meditatio: "Meditation in Word"*
Advent 2017 ✕ December 13th, 2017, 4:30 pm



Historic Church Year Symbol for Advent-1 Midweek: Meditatio = Meditation

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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 | 109 (4v) | Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes |
| Hymn of the Day | 141 (3v) | Once He Came in Blessing |
| Canticle | p. 123 | <i>The Magnificat My soul magnifies the Lord</i> |
| Closing Hymn | 570(5v) | Now the Light Has Gone Away |

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 II: Meditatio (Wednesday, December 13th 2017)

INTRODUCTION What do you think about when you hear the word, “**Meditation**”? Buddha sitting cross- legged and gazing at his belly? Contemplative monks cloistered away with attention fixed on the rosaries in their hands? Spiritual techniques marketed with the promise of providing tranquility and stability to your life? The Bible gives us an altogether different picture of mediation. We meditate rightly by hearing and keeping God’s holy Word. We meditate on the things we love. We do this naturally. Think of how much time and how much we/you enjoy spending *meditating on* those things and those ones that you love. Loving the Word of the Lord, we meditate on it. Our hearts are occupied with God’s Word.

- I. To meditate on God’s Word is to hear it: Faith comes by hearing the Word.
- II. To mediate on God’s Word is to take it to heart.
- III. To meditate on God’s Word is to live godly lives according to it.

“Intimate acquaintance with the word of Yahweh brings about superior prudence” (cf. Deut. 4:6). It produces a careful walk (v.101) and grants delightful enjoyment (v.103)” (HJ. Kraus, Psalms 11:418). The mediatio of Luther’s triad is **not self-reflective** introspection but **a life lived in the Word of God**. Meditation is verbal as it engages the Words of the Lord. In the words of Cranmer’s old Collect (for the Word), we “*read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest*” God’s Word. (We’ll get back to that “**inwardly digesting**” a little later. Hebrew language: very “Guttural”) Note here the connections with **Psalm 119**. The Psalmist prays “Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day long” (v.97). Also “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth” (v. 103).

Meditation is not an escape from the world into a monastic cell where one is left alone with his or her thoughts. Rather it is life in God’s Word within the world. The Kingdom for which we pray in the second petition is not a Platonic sphere outside of temporal existence. God’s Kingdom comes with His Son Who entered this world as the child of Mary. He brings His everlasting reign into human history and history finds its ultimate fulfillment in Him Who is the Author and Finisher of our salvation. **This Kingdom comes to us now in time**. How does this happen? Listen to the Catechism: “*God’s Kingdom comes when our*

Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.”

The Word of God is heard with the ear, engaging the hearts and minds of those who receive it in faith. With the lips, this implanted Word is confessed, proclaimed, and prayed. **Oratio** (last week) leads to **Meditatio**, which is meditation on the Word of God.

Meditation is immersion into the text of Holy Scripture. It is the ongoing hearing of God’s Word that is read and preached so that the one who hears Christ is enlivened to trust His promises and equipped to respond to the needs of the neighbor in his calling in the world. **Luther** likened meditation to **a cow chewing its cud**. In his 1525 commentary on **Deuteronomy 14:1**, he writes: “*To chew the cud, however, is to take up the Word with delight and meditate with supreme diligence, so that (according to the proverb) one does not permit it to go into one ear and out the other, but holds it firmly in the heart, swallows it, and absorbs it into the intestines.*” (Luther could be pretty earthly, “gutter”al, like the Hebrew language.)

No wonder then that Luther ties meditation to **listening** to sermons, **remembering** your Baptism, and **engaging** in the works of one’s vocation like honoring parents according to the fourth commandments. We meditate on that which we love, To meditate rightly is to fear, love and trust in God above all things and give oneself in love to the service of the neighbor according to God’s Commandments. Meditation is not spiritual **INTroversion**; it is **EXtroverted**, outside of oneself in Christ by faith and in the neighbor by love.

CONCLUSION Now we have read in the Catechism, “*God’s Kingdom comes by itself without our prayer.*” We do not pull ourselves up into God’s Kingdom through our mediation. His; is the Kingdom of the ear as Luther said in one of his sermons. We mediate when we like Mary (recall Luke 1) hear and believe God’s “*Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.*” Take these things and **ponder** them in your heart. Meditate. **IJ’N, 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 divine.** (ELH #88,v2)

| PRAYER REQUESTS: | Member or Relation | Pray for... |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Alex Gourley (Ilene) | Catheter. Surgery scheduled Thu. | So.Baptist-Plant City |
| Jim & Elma Hendricks | LORD’s will be done. Jim was in hospital this week | |
| Mary Lou Knigge | Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab. Recuperating | |
| Dee Kurczewski (David) | Dee fell(twice), was in hospital. Back home rehabbing | |
| Carolyn Miner (Don) | Carolyn had (knee) surgery yesterday. Back home | |
| Frank Patrick (Joan) | Frank had (eye) surgery last week. Joan's coming up | |
| Jon Sawyer Sr (Andrea) | Jon had a stroke on the job in Boston today | |
| James Vanesky&Delores | Delores is home after hospital (pneumonia)& rehab | |
| Bev Wienke (Don) | Bev is rehabbing from her back. Thank God for progress | |