

Scripture Lessons for  the Third Midweek in Advent  
Psalmody

**Psalm 119:153 -168 NIV** Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten Your law. 154 Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve my life according to Your Promise. 155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out Your decrees. 156 Your compassion is great, O LORD; preserve my life according to Your laws. 157 Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from Your statutes. 158 I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey Your Word. 159 See how I love Your precepts; preserve my life, O LORD, according to Your love. 160 All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal. 161 Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at Your Word. 162 I rejoice in Your promise like one who finds great spoil. 163 I hate and abhor falsehood but I love Your law. 164 Seven times a day I praise You for Your righteous laws. 165 Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble. 166 I wait for Your Salvation, O LORD, and I follow Your commands. 167 I obey Your statutes, for I love them greatly. 168 I obey Your precepts and Your statutes, for all my ways are known to You.

**Lection, Reading**

**Luther's Catechism: Lord's Prayer Second Petition**

*Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.      What Does This Mean?*

The good and gracious Will of God is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.

***How is God's Will done?***

God's Will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow His Name nor let His Kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious Will.



**Gospel**

**John 6:60-69** On hearing it, many of His disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" 61 Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The Words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless the Father has enabled him." 66 From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Midweek in Advent  *Tentatio: "Endurance in Word"*  
Advent 2017 ✘ December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 4:30 pm



**Historic Church Year Symbol for Advent-3 Midweek: Tentatio = Endurance**

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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	133 (4v)	O Come, All Ye Faithful
Hymn of the Day	111 (6v)	<i>Sing v.1-4</i> When Sinners See Their Lost...
<i>Canticle</i>	<i>p. 123</i>	<i>The Magnificat</i> My soul magnifies the Lord
Closing Hymn	561 (8v)	<i>Sing vv.1-2;7-8</i> Abide With Me, Fast Falls

**Midweek III: Tentatio** (Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 2017)

**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.*

**INTRODUCTION** How are you to pray “*Thy Will be done*”? The German preacher, **Helmut Thielicke** observed that this is a dangerous Petition to pray for we are in fact **praying against ourselves. We are NOT asking God to bring His will into alignment with OUR will.** Just the opposite, we are imploring Him to bring our fickle and unpredictable wills into harmony with His good and gracious Will. This is not without suffering for we are asking God to “break and hinder” the will of the **enemies: the devil, the world, and yes, our sinful nature.**

- I. To meditate on God’s Word is to become a target
- II. Christians are under attack from the devil, the world, and our flesh
- III. God’s Word sustains us to endure to the end

**Tentatio is the spiritual attack** or affliction that comes when one meditates on the Word of God. Tentatio happens within the context of a person’s vocation. “*Tentatio is testing, temptation and trial which occurs when God and His Word intersect with us and our world.*” (Pfeiffer, p.113) . Suffering happens precisely because a person is faithful to his or her calling. **Luther** wrote about *Tentatio* and *cross-bearing* this way, “*Peace with God brings conflict and adversity with the Devil, the world and the flesh.*” **Psalm 119:153** is a **lament** born out of this *Tentatio*: “*Look on my affliction and deliver me for I do not forget your law.*” There is a parallel between this verse and the Catechism’s explanation of the **Third Petition**: “*God’s Will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us Hallow His Name nor let His Kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious Will.*”

**Advent reminds us** that we do not pray the Third Petition as agnostics who do **not know** the Will of God. God’s good and gracious Will is revealed in the Blessed One Who comes in the Name of the Lord. He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. His mercy is great (**Psalm 119:156**). Those who keep the words of this Savior will endure trial

and persecution in one form or another. Think of the imprisonment of the great Saint (of Advent), **John the Baptist** (Matthew 11). **Mary** who sings the **Magnificat** and ponders (meditates) on all that the God of her salvation has done (see Luke 2:19) will have her own soul pierced by a sword (Luke 2:35) as her Son is set for “**the falling and rising-of many in Israel**” (Luke 2:33).

**God’s good and gracious Will is our salvation.** That as **Luther** reminds us is His “**proper**” work. But His proper work also entails His “**alien**” work, the work of breaking and hindering all that sets itself in opposition to His will: the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. Luther’s prayer in the Large Catechism’s explanation of the **Third Petition** is entirely **consistent with Psalm 119**: “Dear Father, Your Will be done and **not** the will of the devil or of our enemies; nor of those who would persecute and oppress Your Holy Word or prevent Your Kingdom from coming; and grant that we may bear patiently and overcome whatever we must suffer on its account, so that our poor flesh may not yield or fall away through weakness or sloth.” (**Large Catechism** 111:67, K-W, 449).

To hold fast the treasures of **the first Two Petitions** (God’s **Holy Name** and the gift of **His Kingdom**) means that there will be suffering in one form or another: “*If we try to hold these treasures fast, we will have to suffer an astonishing number of attack and assaults from all who venture to hinder and thwart the fulfillment of the first Two Petitions*” (**LC 111:61**, K-W, 448).

**CONCLUSION** **Bonhoeffer** has described the Christian life as one long Advent Season. We are waiting on a Savior who has already come and comes even now. He has died in our place, defeated our enemies, and been raised for your justification. Clinging to His Word, we are set in spiritual warfare with the all that stands in opposition to Him. Our confidence is not in ourselves but in His sure and certain testimonies so we pray: “*Give me life according to Your steadfast love. The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your just and righteous decrees endures forever*” (Ps.119:159b-160).

**REVIEW / SUMMARY – ADVENT 2017** **Oratio, Meditation, Tentatio.**

Pray. Meditate. Endure ...until Our Savior Comes! **IJ’N, Amen. SDG**

- 1. **Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, - Only Hope for sinful mortals!**
- Come, O Savior of the world! - Open are to Thee all portals.**
- Come, Thy beauty let us see; - Anxiously we wait for Thee.** (ELH #88,v1)

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
<b>Sue nee Foster</b>	(Bev Foster daughter)	Sue-liver & pancreas cancerous growth
<b>Alex Gourley</b>	(Ilene)	Alex had catheter procedure Thu. Went well. Back home
<b>Jim&amp;Elma Hendricks</b>		LORD’s will be done. Jim at home. Blood pressure spikes
<b>Mary Lou Knigge</b>		Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab. Recuperating
<b>Dee Kurczewski</b>	(David)	Dee fell(twice), was in hospital. Back home, rehab
<b>Carolyn Miner</b>	(Don)	Carolyn had (knee) surgery last week. Back home
<b>Joan &amp; Frank Patrick</b>		Frank had (eye)surgery last week. Both have eyes Wed.
<b>Jon Sawyer Sr</b>	(Andrea)	Jon had a stroke in Boston. Flown home Tue. @LRMC
<b>James Vanesky&amp;Delores</b>		Delores & Jim at home. Both doing rehab
<b>Bev Wienke</b>	(Don)	Bev is rehabbing from her back. Thank God for progress