

# Midweek Prayer, fourth week of Advent

December 20 – December 24, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



## Prayer in the home

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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

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*Light all four 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

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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: Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul writes:* <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

POEM: "Mary, in the days"

Mary, in the days of her holy expectation,  
magnified the Lord;  
her spirit rejoiced in the child of her womb,  
the Son of God.

For when all things lay in silence,  
and night was in the midst of her course,  
there leaped down, O God, from on high,  
from your royal throne, your Christ, yourself;  
through woman, to be born in human nature,  
born in time, born in us,  
and we in him.

Grant me, O God, your divinest gift,  
that Emmanuel may be formed and born in me,  
and I may ever rejoice and magnify you.

Say to my soul, Peace, be still,  
as was that silent night.

And send your Word into my soul,  
not for my merit, but by your miracle;  
not by my desire, but of your sole gift;  
not in part, but in all  
which mortal can receive.

Father, let me be born in you as your child:  
Christ, be born in me as my Lord:  
Holy Spirit, travail and shine within;  
that I may live in your life  
and love with your love  
evermore and evermore.

**Mary, in the days** "Christmas Eve" from Eric Milner-White,  
*My God, My Glory* (London: Triangle, 1994), p. 56.

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.**