

Daily Prayers for the week of Gaudete – 12/13/2020

OPENING VERSICLES:

O Lord, open my lips, **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
Make haste, O God, to deliver me; **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia

PSALMODY: Psalm 4 and / or the psalms listed below

Sun: 45; 46, 47; Mon: 48, 49; 50; Tues: 51; 52, 53; Wed: 54, 56; 55;
Thurs: 59; 57, 58; Fri: 60, 61; 62; Sat: 65; 63, 64

DECEMBER HYMN: 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hymn: 345

CATECHISM:

What is the Third Petition?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

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

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11 ESV

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another? ⁴ And Jesus answered them, Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

RESPONSE: O Lord, have mercy upon us. **Thanks be to God.**

CATECHESIS:

We do not know precisely why John sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah. Whether it was simply for the benefit of John's disciples' to hear for themselves from Jesus' own mouth that He is indeed the Christ or if John also

wanted to hear those words of comfort too. It is likely a combination of the two. Faith always lives along side of doubt on this side of eternity. Though Jesus has destroyed sin's power on the cross, sin still haunts us until we breathe our last. However it was not doubt that sent John's question to Jesus, it was faith. Faith desires to hear the Word of the Lord. Faith seeks comfort in the only place that it exists, in Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus makes the blind see and the lame walk. He cleanses lepers and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. But the greatest miracle of all is that Jesus the Lamb of God was sacrificed on Calvary for the sins of the world and through the shedding of His innocent Blood, forgiveness is won for mankind and Jesus gives that forgiveness away for free.

APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

KYRIE: Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy;** **Lord, have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE WEEK:

Lord, we beseech Thee : give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER: LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER:

(p. 327 in the hymnal or in Section 2 Daily Prayers in the Catechism)

BENEDICAMUS:

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead to Rorate Coeli (Advent IV) – 12/20/2020:

OT: Deut 18:15-19; Ep: Phil 4:4-7; Gospel: John 1:19-28

Chief Hymn: 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel