

Bread of Life

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Plymouth, NE
Advent Three Week of December 11, 2011

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday – Matthew 11:1-15; Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday – Luke 3:10-20; John 5:31-36
Friday – John 1:29-24; 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Throughout the Week— Psalms 85-87

Tuesday – Matthew 3:1-11; Luke 1:57-70
Thursday – Hosea 14:5-9; John 1:1-18
Saturday – Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 7:29-35

Prayer of the Day for Advent Three:

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn Verses of the Week - "On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry" (CW 16)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine, And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

Catechism for the Week – Table of Duties (part 2)

Governing Authorities

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. He who is in authority does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom. 13:1-4).

Duties Subjects Owe to Governing Authorities

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21).

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due" (Rom. 13:1, 5-7). "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). "Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work" (Tit. 3:1). "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right" (1 Pet. 2:13, 14).

The Why in our Worship- Symbolism in the Church – Pictures and Symbols

I.N.R.I.

I.N.R.I. - Initial letters for Latin inscription on the cross: Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Symbol for Jesus.

Thought for the Week

Advent is a season of anticipation. The One who once came in humility by way of Bethlehem's manger, David's donkey, and Calvary's cross, who now comes to us hiddenly in His holy Word and the sacrament of His body and blood, will come visibly in blazing glory to raise the dead and give eternal life to all who call on His Name. The tone of Advent is one of joyful expectation, a mixture of holy fear and expectant joy, like that of a mother-to-be awaiting the arrival of her first baby. We await the coming of our Savior Jesus, who will raise the dead from the grave and give eternal life to all who trust in Him.

We live in the in-between days, between Christ's first and second advents. He is always present with us, and always has been since the beginning. His presence is made audible and visible to us by the preached Word and the Sacraments. Only briefly did the Son of God show His face some 2000 years ago. Only at the end will we see His face again when He appears in glory. Until then, we watch and wait for His advent.

Prepare for Next Week's Worship: (Advent 4)

Lessons: Isaiah 12:1-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:26-38

Hymn of the Day: CW 12

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, Personal Prayers

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments; for faithful preaching and hearing of the Word.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the lonely and oppressed.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our community; for schools (remembering also our high schools, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary).

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church in places we cannot go; for faithful distribution and reception of the Lord's Supper.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of Christ crucified; for spread of the Gospel throughout the world and our community; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are struggling or who have fallen away, for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive God's gifts in public worship.

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

Luther's Morning Prayer- In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer- In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Personal Prayers—(Remembering those in our congregation, your family and friends, prayers of intercession and prayers of thanksgiving).