

**Ember Days**

**Luther's Works, Volume 43**

**“This in short is the way I use the Lord’s**

**Prayer when I pray it.** To this day I suckle at the Lord’s Prayer like a child, and as an old man eat and drink from it and never get my fill. It is the very best prayer, even better than the psalter, which is so very dear to me. It is surely evident that a real master composed and taught it. What a great pity that the prayer of such a master is prattled and chattered so irreverently all over the world! How many pray the Lord’s Prayer several thousand times in the course of a year, and if they were to keep on doing so for a thousand years they would not have tasted nor prayed one iota, one dot,<sup>9</sup> of it! In a word, the Lord’s Prayer is the greatest martyr on earth (as are the name and word of God). Everybody tortures and abuses it; few take comfort and joy in its proper use.

If I have had time and opportunity to go through the Lord’s Prayer, I do the same with the Ten Commandments. I take one part after another and free myself as much as possible from distractions in order to pray. I divide each commandment into four parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is, I think of each commandment as, **first, instruction**, which is really what it is intended to be, and consider what the Lord God demands of me so earnestly. **Second, I turn it into a thanksgiving; third, a confession; and fourth, a prayer.** I do so in thoughts or words such as these:

“I am the Lord your God, etc. You shall have no other gods before me,” etc. Here I earnestly consider that God expects and teaches me to trust him sincerely in all things and that it is his most earnest purpose to be my God. I must think of him in this way at the risk of losing eternal salvation. My heart must not build upon anything else or trust in any other thing, be it wealth, prestige, wisdom, might, piety, or anything else. Second, I give thanks for his infinite compassion by which he has come to me in such a fatherly way and, unasked, unbidden, and unmerited, has offered to be my God, to care for me, and to be my comfort, guardian, help, and strength in every time of need. We poor mortals have sought so many gods and would have to seek them still if he did not enable us to hear him openly tell

(Continued on the back)

**O Antiphons**

Between December 17 and 23, the church begins to anticipate the coming of Christ’s Mass. In the daily Vespers service, the seasonal antiphons for the canticle the Magnificat is replaced with 7 different antiphons. These antiphons are all addressed to different names for our Lord and thus they all begin with the interjection, “O.” The hymn, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” is based on these antiphons.

Although we will not use them as an antiphon,  
December 18.--O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on / Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and re- / deem us. (*Exodus 3:2, 10:1*)

December 20.--O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can / open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death. (*Isaiah 22:22, Rev 3:7, Luke 1:79*)

**Catechism Schedule**

- Lenten 2025 – Holy Baptism
- Pentecost 2025 – Confession/Office of the Keys
- September 2025 – Daily Prayers
- Advent 2025 – Table of Duties
- Lenten 2026 – Christian Questions with their Answers
- Pentecost 2026 – Ten Commandments
- September 2026 – Apostles’ Creed
- Advent 2026– Lord’s Prayer

The Order of Matins, p. 208

+ <b>Hymn</b>	<b>#25 and #802</b>
+ “O Lord, open my lips...	p.208f
+ <u>Ascription of Praise for Advent</u>	p.209
“Praise to you, O Christ, King who comes to save us.”	
+ <u>Advent Invitatory</u>	p.209
P. “Behold, the Lord comes to save us.”	
C. Oh, come, let us worship him.	
+ <u>The Venite</u>	p.209f
“Oh, come, let us sing...”	
+ <b>ASBH #3 “The Only Son from Heaven”</b>	
<u>Psalmody</u>	
Psalm 132	(printed)
Psalm 98	(printed)
<u>Reading</u>	
Wed – Isaiah 2:2-5, St. Luke 1:26-38	
Fri – Isaiah 11:1-5, St. Luke 1:39-47	
Sat – 2 Thess. 2:1-8, St. Luke 3:1-6	
Common Responsory	p.211
“Forever, O Lord, your Word...”	
<u>Catechism Reading</u>	
Wed – Lord’s Prayer (p.302-3)	
Fri – Lord’s Prayer (p.302-3)	
Sat – Lord’s Prayer (p.302-3)	
Sermon	
Offering	
+ Benedictus.....	p.217-219
“Blessed be the Lord God...”	
+ The Prayers.....	p.219
Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy...”)	
Lord's Prayer	
Salutation	
Collect of the Day	(inside)
Special Prayers	
Collect for Grace	
+ Benedicamus/Benediction	p.222-223

## Luther's Works, Volume 43 continued

{continued from inside the bulletin} ...us in our own language that he intends to be our God. How could we ever—in all eternity—thank him enough! Third, I confess and acknowledge my great sin and ingratitude for having so shamefully despised such sublime teachings and such a precious gift throughout my whole life, and for having fearfully provoked his wrath by countless acts of idolatry. I repent of these and ask for his grace. Fourth, I pray and say: “O my God and Lord, help me by thy grace to learn and understand thy commandments more fully every day and to live by them in sincere confidence. Preserve my heart so that I shall never again become forgetful and ungrateful, that I may never seek after other gods or other consolation on earth or in any creature, but cling truly and solely to thee, my only God. Amen, dear Lord God and Father. Amen.”

Afterward, if time and inclination permit, the Second Commandment likewise in four strands, like this: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” etc. First, I learn that I must keep God’s name in honor, holiness, and beauty; not to swear, curse, not to be boastful or seek honor and repute for myself, but humbly to invoke his name, to pray, praise, and extol it, and to let it be my only honor and glory that he is my God and that I am his lowly creature and unworthy servant. Second, I give thanks to him for these precious gifts, that he has revealed his name to me and bestowed it upon me, that I can glory in his name and be called God’s servant and creature, etc., that his name is my refuge like a mighty fortress to which the righteous man can flee and find protection, as Solomon says [Prov. 18:10]. Third, I confess and acknowledge that I have grievously and shamefully sinned against this commandment all my life. I have not only failed to invoke, extol, and honor his holy name, but have also been ungrateful for such gifts and have, by swearing, lying, and betraying, misused them in the pursuit of shame and sin. This I bitterly regret and ask grace and forgiveness, etc. Fourth, I ask for help and strength henceforth to learn [to obey] this commandment and to be preserved from such evil ingratitude, abuse, and sin against his name, and that I may be found grateful in revering and honoring his name.

I repeat here what I previously said in reference to the Lord’s Prayer: if in the midst of such thoughts the Holy Spirit begins to preach in your heart with rich, enlightening thoughts, honor him by letting go of this written scheme; be still and listen to him who can do better than you can. Remember what he says and note it well and you will behold wondrous things in the law of God, as David says [Ps. 119:18].

## Ember Days in Advent, 2024



## Trinity Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Michael D. Henson · Deacon Gary K. Harroun**

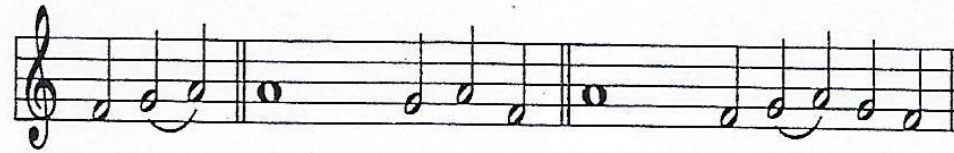
*Pr. Henson and Dcn. Harroun are members of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America ([Eldona.org](http://Eldona.org))*

**Isaiah 2:2-5**

<sup>2</sup>Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. <sup>3</sup>Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD.

**Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" <sup>29</sup>But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup>Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup>"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup>"And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit* will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>"For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**Introit**

*Ant.* DROP DOWN, || ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down | right- | eous- | ness:

let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have | cre | at- | ed | it.

*Psalm.* || The heavens declare the glor- | y | of | God:

and the firmament sheweth | his | hand- | y- | work.

GLO- RY || be to the Father and | to | the | Son:

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.

AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ev- | er | shall | be:

world with | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. repeated.*)

**Collect.**

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that with the coming solemnity of our Lord's birth to accomplish our redemption, through Thy holy Word and Sacraments Thou would strength our faith in Christ Jesus, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Epistle.** Isaiah 2:2-5.

**Gospel.** St. Luke 1:26-38.

**Gradual.**

|| Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye ever- | last- | ing | doors:

and the King of glor- | y | shall | come | in.

|| Who shall ascend into the hill | of | the | Lord?

or who shall stand in | His | ho- | ly | place?

|| He that hath clean hands, and | a | pure | heart;

who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn | de- | ceit- | ful- | ly.

**Isaiah 11:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; <sup>4</sup>But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

**Luke 1:39-47**

<sup>39</sup>Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup>and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>“But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>“For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. <sup>45</sup>“Blessed *is* she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**Introit.**

*Ant.* THOU ART || near, O Lord; and all thy command- | ments | are | truth:

Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded | them | for | ev- | er.

*Psalm.* || Blessed are the undefiled | in | the | way:

who walk in the | law | of | the | LORD.

GLO- RY || be to the Father and | to | the | Son:

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.

AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ev- | er | shall | be:

world with | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. repeated.*)

**Collect.**

Stir up Thy might, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come, that they who trust in Thy loving kindness may be the more speedily freed from all adversity, Who livest and reignest, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Epistle.** Isaiah 11:1-5.

**Gospel.** Luke 1:39-47.

**Gradual.**

|| Shew us Thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us Thy salvation. Lord, Thou hast been favourable un- | to | Thy | land:

Thou hast brought back the captivi- | ty | of | Ja- | cob.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

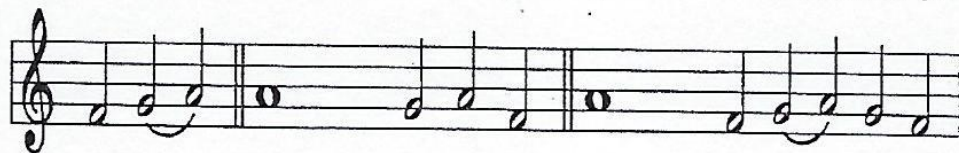
<sup>1</sup>Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup>not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. <sup>5</sup>Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup>And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

## Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; <sup>6</sup>And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

SATURDAY IN EMBER WEEK OF ADVENT (VIOLET)

PSALM 132/98



### Introit.

**Ant.** TURN US || again, O God of hosts, and cause Thy | face | to | shine:

and | we | shall | be | saved.

**Psalm.** || Give ear, O Shepherd of | Is- | ra- | el:

Thou that leadest Jo- | seph | like | a | flock.

**GLO- RY** || be to the Father and | to | the | Son:

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.

**AS IT** || was in the beginning, is now, and ev- | er | shall | be:

world with- | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. repeated.*)

### Collect.

O God, who seest that we are afflicted because of our iniquity, mercifully grant that we may be comforted by Thy visitation, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Epistle.** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

**Gospel.** Luke 3:1-6.

### Gradual.

|| His going forth is from the end of | the | heav- | en:

and His circuit unto | the | ends | of | it.

|| The heavens declare the glor- | y | of | God:

and the firmament sheweth | His | hand- | y- | work.

Gaudete - 3rd Sunday in Advent  
 3. The Only Son from Heaven

Elisabeth Cruciger, 1524

7, 6, 7, 6, 7, 7, 6.  
 German, 1524

1. The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore -  
 2. O time of God ap - point - ed, O  
 3. O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en, To

told by an - cient seers, By God, the Fa - ther,  
 bright and ho - ly morn! He comes, the King an -  
 know and love Thee more, In faith to stand un -

giv - en, In hu - man shape ap - pears;  
 oint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born;  
 shak - en, In Spi - rit to a - dore,

No sphere His light con - fin - ing,  
 His home on earth He mak - eth,  
 That we still heav'n - ward hast - ing,

No star so bright - ly shin - ing  
 And man of heav'n par - tak - eth,  
 Yet here Thy joy fore - tast - ing,

As He, our Mor - ning Star.  
 Of life a - gain an heir.  
 May reap its ful - ness there. - A - men.