Lutheran Confessions

Large Catechism, Ten Commandments, 3rd

100] For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. Therefore **you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware.** 101] On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words.

Large Catechism, Lord's Prayer

4] But before we explain the Lord's Prayer part by part, **it is most necessary first to exhort and incite people to prayer, as Christ and the apostles also have done. 5] And the first matter is to know that it is our duty to pray because of God's commandment….**

105] Great and grievous, indeed, are these dangers and temptations which every Christian must bear, even though each one were alone by himself, so that every hour that we are in this vile life where we are attacked on all sides, chased and hunted down, **we are moved to cry out and to pray that God would not suffer us to become weary and faint and to relapse into sin, shame, and unbelief. For otherwise it is impossible to overcome even the least temptation….**

107] To feel temptation is therefore a far different thing from consenting or yielding to it. We must all feel it, although not all in the same manner, but some in a greater degree and more severely than others; as, the young suffer especially from the flesh, afterwards, they that attain to middle life and old age, from the world, but others who are occupied with spiritual matters, that is, strong Christians, from the devil. 108] But such feeling, as long as it is against our will and we would rather be rid of it, can harm no one. For if we did not feel it, it could not be called a temptation. **But to consent thereto is when we give it the reins and do not resist or pray against it.**

30] For this we must know, that all our shelter and protection rest in prayer alone. For we are far too feeble to cope with the devil and all his power and adherents that set themselves against us, and they might easily crush us under their feet. Therefore we must consider and take up those weapons with which 31] Christians must be armed in order to stand against the devil. …32] For whenever a godly Christian prays: Dear Father, let Thy will be done, God speaks from on high and says: Yes, dear child, it shall be so, in spite of the devil and all the world.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Thine Only-Begotten Son, so that by His coming we may be enabled to serve Thee with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **AMEN** *(Collect for Second Sunday in Advent)*

Word of God: Luke 21:25-36 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. If a road sign points to something ahead (e.g. an upcoming curve), to what do these abnormal celestial events point? (Is 13:10-13)
2. What will be the reaction of the unbelieving nations on the earth?
3. The "And then" (v.27) is the conclusion. What will happen last?
4. Who is the Son of Man?
5. How will His Second coming by different from his first coming? (Daniel 7:13, Rev 1:7)
6. How will believers react to His Second Coming? (Rom 15:4,13)
7. What does it mean to "straighten up and raise your heads?" (Ps 24)
8. Your redemption is "drawing near." What does that mean? (Rom 13:11) Jesus says, "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is near" (Mt 4:17).
9. What do we learn from the budding fig tree? How does that apply to the Kingdom of God (the church)?
10. What does it mean by "near," in verse 28, 30, 31?
11. Who is "this generation?" (Is there a context?)
12. What is meant by "heaven and earth?" (Genesis 1:1, Haggai 2:6)
13. Verse 32 deserves great attention. Jesus says, "Amen. Amen. I say to you." What is the contrast of verse 32-33? (Lk 16:17)
14. Luke speaks of two things that prepared believers do.
    A. "Watch yourselves…"
        1) Why? What could happen? (1 Tim 4:16, "life and doctrine")
        2) What could "the cares of this life" do? (Titus 2:12, 3:3)
    B. "Stay Awake…" (Mt 24:42, 48-50, Mk 13:33-35, Eph 5:14)
        1) How do you do that?
15. What will come upon all, and what will not?
16. Who can stand before the Son of Man? (1 Cor 10:13, Ps 1:5, 24:3)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest…

Hymn "**Lord Jesus Christ, to Us Attend"** ASBH insert
Lord's Prayer, 7th Petition and Conclusion & meaning
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses
"O Lord, open Thou(†) my lips..." from the Psalter, p. 29-30
Hallelujah omitted in Advent

Reading
St. Luke 21:25-36 *(back)*

Hymn
ASBH: "**Lord Jesus Christ, to Us Attend"** (insert)

Catechesis on… *(back)*
St. Luke 21:25-36
Liturgy
Catechism

+ The Canticle
The Magnificat…… p.33-34

+ The Prayers..... p.36
Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy…")
Lord's Prayer
Salutation p.37
Collect for Sunday
--prayer based on reading
Special Prayers
Collect for Peace p.37
+ Benedicamus & Blessing p.38-39

Catechesis on St. Luke 21:25-36

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; [26] "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. [27] "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. [28] "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." [29] Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. [30] "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. [31] "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. [32] "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. [33] "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [34] "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. [35] "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. [36] "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may *be counted worthy* to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (NKJV)

(* - some correct the text to say "have strength")

Signs at the End / Unexpectedly

"For two things must take place according to the Word and prophesy of Christ and the apostles: first, that **many and great signs will be made manifest**; and secondly, that **the last day will come unawares**, the world not expecting it, even though that day be at the door" (Luther's Church Postil, Second Sunday in Advent, paragraph 1).

1. Though the exact time and hour of Christ's return is hidden, **believers will recognize these "signs"** of God's wrath and the coming judgment on this world, which will pass away. These signs include:
   a. **natural phenomena** (Luke 21:25),
   b. **social world**(wars, famines, etc. – Mt 24:6), and
   c. particularly in **the Church**(false teachers, falling away from Gospel, antichrist, etc. –Mt 24:5).

Since believers no longer trust in anything of this world, it's passing away does not alarm them. Believers welcome the day and even pray for Christ's coming so that we will be set free from sin and evil.

Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

2. **Unbelievers** will not recognize these "signs" of God's wrath, but they **will be caught unaware** when Christ returns. Their hearts are not lifted to God, but "weighed down" but serving their sins. Unbelievers put their trust in the "cares of this world," and thus they fear the destruction of their worldly idols.

Jesus' Words Will Not Pass Away

Luke 9:26, "For whoever is ashamed of **Me and My words**, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels."

In view of this truth,

1. Pastors are directed to diligently and faithfully preach the Word and administer the Sacraments.

2 Timothy 4:1-2, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

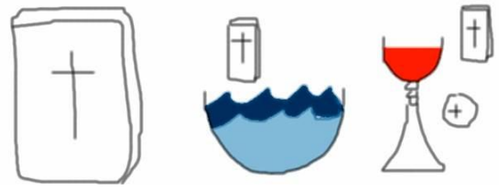
1 Timothy 4:15-16, "Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

2. All Christians are to be diligent in hearing the Word, avoiding sin and leading a blameless life.

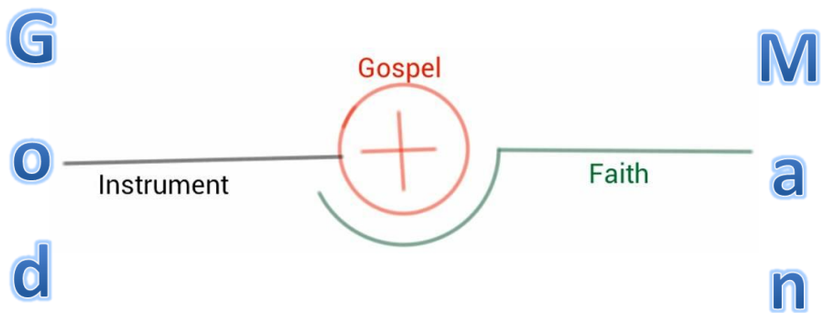
2 Peter 3:11-13, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless….

December 2, 2026

Catechesis on St. Luke 21:25-36



Two-fold Power of the Means of Grace
1. Presents the Gospel (forgiveness of sins) - *imparting*
2. Works and strengthens faith in the Gospel - *effecting*



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