

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 10 through February 17, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 19—Praise of God for the Perfect Revelation of His Glory— David links together the preaching of the Gospel with the ordering of the cosmos. “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork” precisely because they are signs whose ordered design and placement in the cosmos perfectly reflect the ordering of the Gospel of God’s love and sacrifice in Christ. The creation of the sun, the moon, and the stars are for signs and seasons, and for all the patterns of life that find their fulfillment in the week of our redemption in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. As the earth orbits around the sun, which sustains the life of all living things, so Christ and His Gospel is the source of eternal life and salvation. The pattern of a day (“evening and morning”) points us to the darkness of death and the light of the resurrection of Christ by which the creation is redeemed and made new. The statutes of the LORD testify to the truth of the Gospel which is imbedded in all of creation. The Law of the LORD—His commandments and promises—convert our hearts from unbelief to repentant faith. We rejoice in His salvation and desire His Word to be proclaimed in all of creation. By the Word of the Lord we are turned from our sin, cleansed from unknown errors, and lead a life that is innocent of all transgressions by the gift of Christ’s righteousness. “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer!”

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: In Christ We Are Transfigured from Mortality to Immortality!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Jeremiah 31:34b**

“They all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” says the LORD.

“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Psalm 19 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, grant us to see in the signs of creation the wonders of the Gospel of Jesus’ death and resurrection for the redemption of the creation. As the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork, so by Your holy Word convert and restore our hearts to fervent faith in our Savior and in every promise of Your holy Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107
Evening	93	94	97	99	102	104	106	108

Readings for the Week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22-4:6
Monday	Ezekiel’s Vision—Ezekiel 1:1-28	Job:7:1-21	John 4:7-26
Tuesday	Ezekiel Is Called to Be a Prophet to an Exiled People—Ez. 2:1—3:3	Job 8:1-22	John 4:27-45
Wednesday	Daniel and His Three Friends Are Taken to Babylon—Daniel 1:1-21	Job 9:1-35	John 4:46-54
Thursday	King Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream—Daniel 2:1-23	Job 10:1-22	John 5:1-18
Friday	No School—Winter Break	Job 11:1-20	John 5:19-29
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Job 12:1-6, 12-25	John 5:30-47
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Job 13:1-12	John 6:1-21

The Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Kindergarten +

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

First Grade +

<p><i>Where is this written?</i> This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23]</p>	<p>Second Grade +</p>
<p><i>What do you believe according to these words?</i> I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.</p>	<p>Third Grade +</p>

**Prayers: Catechism Prayers, Daily Themes for Prayer (LSB p. 294), In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week
Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Office of the Keys**

O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You that You have given to Your church on earth that special authority to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. Grant faithfulness to Your church and her ministers in preaching the Gospel and administering Your Sacraments. Deliver us from all impenitence and unbelief. Give us truly repentant hearts that, confessing our sins and fleeing to Your mercy, we might receive from You the full and free forgiveness of all our sins. By Your forgiveness, strengthen our faith in You and grant us to live in faithfulness and love toward others. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Confidence to Believe in the Promise of the Office of the Keys

O Lord Jesus, You gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to Your disciples and promised that if they forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; and if they do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. Grant us to believe Your promise, so that we receive the ministry of our pastors in repentant faith and with the confidence that they are speaking on Your behalf and for the sake of our souls' salvation. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer to Receive the Ministry of Your Pastor

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Office of the Holy Ministry. Give faithfulness to my pastor as he calls me to repentance and faith in Your Son. Strengthen me to believe that when my pastor deals with me by Christ's divine command—whether he excludes me from the Lord's Supper for a time in order to call me to repentance, or absolves me when, by the grace of God, I repent of my sins and want to do better—that this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, my dear Lord, dealt with me Himself; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

*The family of Wayne Loose who mourns his death. Jim Verage undergoing neck surgery on Monday.
The students, pastors, and teachers at the seminary in Nigeria.
Phyllis, sister of Rosie Kopting, and Kim Loontjer in hospice care.*

Collect for the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord:

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"O God of God, O Light of Light" (stanzas 1-3)

810

Looking forward to Septuagesima Sunday

February 17, 2019

Hymns: 555, 566, 693

Exodus 17:1-7: *It was the Lord who sustained Israel throughout their wilderness pilgrimage. He sustained them with manna from heaven and with the water from the Rock. Paul tells us in First Corinthians that the Rock that followed them was Christ. Israel's pilgrimage for forty years in the wilderness corresponds to the pilgrimage of the Church in this valley of sorrow. It is the Lord alone who sustains us by His grace. He gives us the true manna from heaven, His body and blood, in the Supper.*

1 Corinthians 9:24—10:5: *The baptismal life is a pilgrimage through this vale of tears to the resurrection to eternal life. In this week's epistle, Paul describes it as a race. He calls us to temperance and a life of quiet repentance in which we discipline our bodies with the sure and certain Word of God. Most of us don't realize that the Word of God that is studied, received, meditated upon, and believed has a positive effect not only upon our faith, but also upon our physical life in this world. Though the children of Israel had been redeemed from their slavery through the blood of the Passover Lamb and their baptism in the cloud and in the sea, and though they had eaten of the spiritual food the Lord provided, many of them died in impenitence. Paul's warning calls us to receive the Lord's Supper with repentant hearts and with a hunger and thirst for His strength. Paul's teaching on the Lord's Supper emphasizes that Christ's body and blood are truly given to us in the Sacrament and that worthy reception of the Lord's Supper requires a penitent faith in the Gospel.*

Matthew 20:1-16: *All the workers received the same wage regardless of when they were hired. What does this mean? All Christians receive the same gift of salvation regardless of when they come to faith. Why? Because salvation is based upon Christ's work and not our own. According to human reason, salvation is unfair because it is not based on our works at all, but is given freely by grace for Christ's sake. This is a parable of grace that teaches us that God shows no partiality in the bestowal of salvation. His gift is given solely on the basis of His undeserved love, and not because of a man's works.*