

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 6 through February 13, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 145: A Psalm of Praise for the Lord's Sustaining Love—There is mental health and spiritual wellbeing that is the product of praise for the Lord. Proclaiming, confessing, extolling, and praising the Lord for His sustaining love in providing for every need of body and soul gives the heart of a Christian peace and contentment in the midst of the troubles of life. To say it another way, the antidote for worry, distress, and sadness over the problems of this world is the heart of faith that focuses upon everything that the Lord does for our life and salvation. Praise of the Lord gives peace and stability to our lives. "I will extol You, my God...every day I will bless You...I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty...The Lord is gracious and full of compassion...The Lord upholds all who fall...The Lord is near to all who call upon Him...The Lord preserves all who love Him...My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord."

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: The Lord Will Transfigure Us by His Glory!

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 145 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: My God and king, I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty and speak of the might of Your awesome acts. Your kingdom is everlasting, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. You are near to all who call upon You. You preserve all who love You. I will forever praise Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, My Lord.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9	
Monday	Ezekiel's Vision—Ezekiel 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-9
Tuesday	Ezekiel Is Called to Be a Prophet to an Exiled People—Ez. 2:1—3:3	1 Peter 1:10-21
Wednesday	Daniel and His Three Friends Are Taken to Babylon—Daniel 1:1-21	1 Peter 1:22—2:3
Thursday	King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream—Daniel 2:1-23	1 Peter 2:4-10
Friday	No School—Winter Break	Proverbs 3:19-26
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Exodus 17:1-7	1 Cor. 9:24—10:5

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 +
Where is this written? 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]	Second Grade +

What do you believe according to these words?

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.

Third Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

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 Office of the Ministry: The Lord's blessing upon the call we have extended to a seminary graduate.

Baptismal Birthdays: Bill Spilger, Staci Anderson (2/7), McKenna DePue, Lacy Brandau (2/8), Laura Prah (2/9), Abby DePue (2/11), Jeannine Gabel (2/12).

Thanksgiving: Jeremy LaFore for continued recovery from paralysis; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: Harold Kampin at Linden Grove; Scott Stewart hospitalized, Jan Wollin, recovering from eye surgery; Rev. Duwayne Schneider, retired friend of Frank & Rosie Kopling, who is hospitalized and in need of nursing home care.

Cancer Treatment: Nancy Thiele (leukemia), Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer), Jim Nitzsche (lung cancer); James Loker (liver cancer), Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).

Those who Mourn: Marilyn Schmudlach, mother of Mark Schmudlach, who died 2/2/2022.

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)

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Looking forward to Septuagesima Sunday

February 13, 2022

Hymns: 942, 948, 566, 953, 960, 434, 761, 918, 643, 938,

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.