

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 30 through February 6, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 144: The Prayer of a Godly Ruler—Psalm 144 is the prayer of a godly king, but it also grasps the humble perspective of faith that all Christians should have in their station in life. David confesses that it is the Lord who is his Rock, who trains him for war, and establishes his kingdom. In these words, and throughout the psalm, he gives all glory to the Lord for who he is and for what he is able to do. He echoes the words of Psalm 8, but with a slight alteration, “What is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man that You are mindful of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.” Compared to the Lord and His mighty acts in creation we are nothing. It is He, alone, who gives salvation. Out of these truths, David prays for the Lord to establish his kingdom and bless him with the prosperity necessary to faithfully serve his people. As a pattern for each of us, David shows us that our lives are blessed, happy, content, and at peace in so far as we draw our life and strength from the Lord alone.

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: You Have Brought up My Life from the Pit!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 103:1-3

Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

Psalm 144 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, our lives are like a breath and our days are like a passing shadow. Grant us to trust in You in humble contrite faith for as long as You give us life, and to sing the new song to You for You alone are the God of our salvation. Happy are the people whose God is the Lord, for You live and reign Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Calms the Sea—Matthew 8:23-27	
Monday	Jeremiah Is Put into Prison—Jeremiah 37:1-21	2 Cor. 11:16-33
Tuesday	Jeremiah Is Thrown into a Cistern—Jeremiah 38:1-28	2 Cor. 12:1-13
Wednesday	The Fall of Jerusalem—2 Kings 25:1-21	2 Cor. 12:14-21
	Presentation of Our Lord—Luke 2:22-32	
Thursday	The Fall of Judah to Babylon—2 Chronicles 36:11-21	2 Cor. 13:1-14
Friday	The Fall of Judah to Babylon—Jeremiah 39:1-18	2 John 1:1-13
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Exodus 3:1-14	2 Peter 1:16-21

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 sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins,

even those we are not aware of,

as we do in the Lord's Prayer;

but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Second Grade +

Which are these?
 Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments:
 Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband wife, or worker?
 Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?
 Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome?
 Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds?
 Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Third Grade +

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

Prayer before Confession

Merciful Father, You promise us that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As I come before You for confession and absolution, teach me to consider my place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Work in me true contrition and repentance. Give me a desire to live a new life. Help me to know and confess my sin truthfully. As I receive my Savior's forgiveness, comfort my conscience, renew my life, strengthen my faith in Him, and restore to me the joy of Your salvation. All this I ask for the sake of my dear Lord Jesus Christ, who died for me and shed His blood for me upon the cross for the forgiveness of all my sins. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Receiving Absolution

O Lord, I give You thanks and praise that You have forgiven me all my sin as a free gift of Your grace. You died for me because You love me, and You rose from the dead so that I might receive the gift of salvation and walk in newness of life. By Your forgiveness, teach me to renounce the devil, to deny myself, and to live a holy life in the joy and confidence that my sins are forgiven. 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.

Baptism: For Chloe James Kenyon, baptized on 1/23/2022, and her parents Jeff and Lindsey.

Baptismal Birthdays: Gwyneth Ferguson (1/31) Greta Hartwig (2/3).

Wedding Anniversaries: Lance and Ann Carus (2/5).

Thanksgiving: Kufre-Abasi recently delivered from great harm and danger in Nigeria; Jeremy LaFore for continued recovery from paralysis; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe recovering from being hospitalized for heart issues; Jan Wollin, recovering from eye surgery; Ralph Fischer, recovering at home after three weeks hospitalization; 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).

Mourning: The family of James Von Dissen, nephew of Eunice Dissen, who mourn his death. The family of Nancy and Tim Thiele, friends of Jon and Marty Bruss and Polly Joubert, who mourn the death of the Thiele's son, David, from cancer.

Collect for the week of the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord: (February 2)

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through 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

"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 6, 2022

Hymns: 810, 413, 415, 395, 416, 821, 537

Exodus 3:1-14: The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who made the promise of salvation to the patriarchs, reveals Himself to Moses at the burning bush as the great I AM, and calls Moses to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt.

2 Peter 1:16-21: Peter makes it clear to the Church that the apostles were not "duped" by clever "fables" concerning Jesus. They were "eye-witnesses of His majesty." They were with Him when He was baptized, they listened to Him preach and teach, they saw Him heal the sick and raise the dead, and they touched His hands and His side after His resurrection.

Throughout their entire time with Jesus, the Word of the Father was proven true: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Word of the Apostles corresponds to the Word of the Prophets. This Word of God is the only "light that shines in a dark place." It is the only way through which we come to know our Savior and it is trustworthy and sure.

Matthew 17:1-9: Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus when His flesh was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, because Jesus, the Son of God, is the glory of the Old Testament Scriptures. Moses' face shone like the Son because he proclaimed the Christ. Elijah was the fiery prophet who preached repentance and salvation because he proclaimed the Christ. The true Tabernacle, the place of the Lord's saving presence, is not any structure that man erects for himself, but the Son Himself who, in His suffering and death, is the fulfillment of every Word of the Law and the Prophets.