

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord  
January 29 through February 5, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Power of the Forgiveness of Sins**—The dramatic story of Joseph’s interactions with his brothers continues in this week’s readings. The true identity of the prince of Egypt remained hidden from his brothers, but the truth of their sin and what they had done to Joseph and their father Jacob was coming to the light of day. God worked repentance in their hearts, turning them away from their self-righteous sins of hatred of their father and brother to a confession of their sin and a yearning for the Lord’s salvation. When the prince’s cup was found in Benjamin’s sack and they were given the opportunity to abandon him, **Judah Intercedes for Benjamin before Joseph**, offering himself in exchange for his brother, giving us a picture of Jesus, the greater descendant of Judah, who would intercede for us. It grieved Joseph to have had to treat his brothers so roughly, but it was necessary in order to save them from impenitence and condemnation. **Joseph Forgives His Brothers**. He can bear it no longer. He must reveal himself to them, not to punish them but to forgive them and celebrate the gift of God’s grace. Joseph was motivated by the undeserved forgiveness and grace of the Lord that he himself had received and that had sustained him throughout the hardships of his life which eventually brought him to the pinnacle of Egyptian power. The power of Christ’s forgiveness is revealed in Joseph’s radical and wonderful words to his brothers, “Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” By the grace of God, Joseph declared that “God works in all things for our good” (Romans 8:28). In the strength of God’s forgiveness, Joseph is reconciled to his brothers, **Jacob Journeys to Egypt to See Joseph, Jacob Settles in the Land of Goshen** with all his sons and family, and **Jacob Blesses Joseph’s Sons**. The line of the Messiah is preserved and in **Joseph’s Vow** he pledges to return his father’s body to the land of promise for burial. The Lord was present with Joseph throughout his life, working all things for good, by the power of Christ’s forgiving grace.

## 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: We Will Be Transfigured with Christ to Share in His Glory!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;  
according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

#### Psalm 77:9-20 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm** O Lord Jesus, the testimony of all Your saving works proclaim to us that we are not forgotten or abandoned in condemnation for our sins, but that You are our mighty Lord and Savior. You are the God who does wonders, and You have redeemed us with Your holy precious blood, and with your innocent suffering and death. Lead us through the wilderness of this world as you led Your people Israel and be our strong defender in all adversity, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89:112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126
Evening	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Transfiguration:</b> Matthew 17:1-9	
Monday	Judah Intercedes for Benjamin Before Joseph—Gen. 44:18–45:3	John 7:19-24
Tuesday	Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 45:4-28	John 7:32-36
Wednesday	Jacob Journeys to Egypt to See Joseph—Genesis 46:1-27	John 7:37—8:1
Thursday	Jacob Settles in the Land of Goshen—Genesis 46:28—47:12 <b>The Presentation of Our Lord:</b> Luke 2:22-40	John 8:2-12
Friday	Joseph’s Vow; Jacob Blesses Joseph’s Sons—Gen. 47:27–48:21	John 8:13-20
Saturday	Septuagesima: Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	1 Corinthians 9:24—10:5

**The Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys**

<p><i>What is Confession?</i> 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.</p>	Kindergarten +
<p><i>What sins should we confess?</i> 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.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>Which are these?</i> 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?</p>	Third Grade +

**Prayers: Catechism Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects 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.*

**In Our Prayers this Week** (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Gwyneth Ferguson (1/31), Greta Hartwig (2/3).

**Thanksgiving for Life:** Birth of a daughter, Lillian Grace to Rachel & Tyler Haga; Sarah May, delivered from serious injury.

**The Sick:** Jan Wollin recovering from a fall; Cindy Hirtz, Mark Schneider, and Mark Gretzinger recovering from surgery; Sarah Mladenik (sister of Robin Theilacker) in rehab following a stroke; Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**Those Who Mourn:** Rev. Jon Leider and Rev. DuWayne Schneider.

**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.*

**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 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**

**"O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair" (stanzas 1-3)**

**Looking forward to Septuagesima Sunday** **February 5, 2023**

**Hymns: 942, 947, 573, 954, 960, 962, 693, 620, 534, 617**

**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.*