

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Sexagesima Sunday
February 4, 2024, through February 11, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Who Could Stand before the Lord if He Kept a Record of Sins? — “If the Lord held us accountable for our sins and kept a record of them, we would all be condemned and have no hope of salvation. But in Christ there is forgiveness for all sin that we might ‘fear, love, and trust in Him.’ The broken and contrite heart does not rely upon anything that it does for salvation but trusts only in Christ’s Word. To ‘wait for the Lord’ is to believe in Jesus and to look nowhere else for comfort for our troubled consciences or for the certainty of salvation but in His Word of forgiveness. Faith holds on to His Word of forgiveness, and from His Word alone it receives the blessed hope of salvation.” [Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 242a]

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: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 130:3-5

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But *there* is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

Psalm 84 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, the congregation of Christians, among whom the Gospel is preached and the Holy Sacraments are administered to the baptized faithful, is the most lovely place of Your saving presence. Give us grace to ever dwell in Your house where You strengthen our faith, enliven our hope, and shield us from every enemy. Hear our prayers and teach us to rely with absolute confidence upon your gracious promises, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129
Evening	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Luke 8:4-15	
Monday	Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1-10	Isaiah 1:16-18
Tuesday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 1)—Luke 15:11-24	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Wednesday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 2)—Luke 15:25-32	Psalm 51
Thursday	David’s Sin with Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11:1-27	Psalm 32
Friday	The Prophet Nathan Confronts David—2 Samuel 12:1-25	John 20:19-23
Saturday	The Anointing of David—1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Cor. 13:1-13

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: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of Sexagesima Sunday:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal Anniversaries: Lillian Haga (2/5), Bill Spilger (2/7), McKenna DePue, Lacy Brandau (2/8), Laura Prahl (2/9).

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

Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Eyon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army). Navy Ensign Parker Ellis (son of a friend of Kent/Christine Franklin) recently deployed.

The Sick: Bradon (friend of Drew Franklin) with a severe head injury, Rolf Berntsen (father of Nicole Aidich) with pneumonia; Cindy Hirtz, Mary Ellen Nitzsche, Sharon Murphy, and Dawn Fredrich (recovering from surgery); Charles Schwen in rehab; Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano) recovering from a stroke; Tom Smith (father of Christine Franklin), Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig in cancer treatment. **Those in Hospice:** Al Gabel and Karen (Mark Thoni’s aunt).

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” (stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to Quinquagesima Sunday

February 11, 2024

Hymns: 849, 556, 861, 685

1 Samuel 16:1-13: It is an article of faith that God blesses us, not because of our goodness, but according to His promise of grace. This truth is confessed in the choice of David to be Israel’s King: “The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” David’s older brothers were all paraded before Samuel as if they were more worthy to be King than their younger brother David. David was chosen by grace. He was a man after God’s own heart of love. Though he was not chosen for his looks, yet “he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good looking.” But even his handsome form was a gift of God’s grace. In the end, God’s grace elevated David to office and sustained him throughout his life and reign as King.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13: The love of Christ that moved Him to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world is described by St. Paul. It is the love of God in Christ that “suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” Love is called the greatest of the three—faith, hope, and love—because without Christ’s love for us we would have nothing in which to believe and hope. Out of the reception of this love of Christ every spiritual blessing in Christ flows forth from the heart and life of a Christian.

Luke 18:31-43: Jesus spoke clearly about His passion, death, and resurrection, yet “these things were hidden” from the disciples, so that they did not understand His words. It was necessary that the Son of Man suffer and die alone, for salvation from sin, death, and hell is entirely the work of our Lord. It must be received by us as a gift alone or it cannot be received at all. For their benefit the disciples were prevented from knowing these words, lest anyone of them boast in his superior knowledge or understanding. The mysteries of the faith are revealed to the blind by the Spirit of God, and so, Jesus has mercy upon blind Bartimaeus, opening his eyes, in token that the mysteries of salvation are revealed to us so that we might believe in the Lord and give all praise and glory to God.