

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, through February 2, 2025

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Confess Your Trespasses to One Another** — “I’m sorry! Forgive me!” These are the words of daily contrition and repentance. “I forgive you!” These are the words of new life from God and the life we share with one another. There is nothing more central to the baptismal life of a Christian than to live by faith in the undeserved mercy of God in Christ and to share that mercy within the body of Christ. It brings constant healing and renewal. This is the meaning of this week’s Bible Verse: “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” We are righteous by faith in Christ and He desires that we pray for one another so that our consciences are healed by Christ’s forgiveness shared within the body of Christ. This emphasis upon confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another that we might be healed by Christ’s forgiveness is what the third section of the Catechism is about. The plural pronouns in the passage from Romans indicate that we are all joined together by our Baptism into Christ so that His undeserved forgiving grace might shape our lives. “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

## 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: “I Am Willing; Be Cleansed!”

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.  
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Psalm 97 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

*Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, we rejoice in and give thanks that You have made known Your salvation in all the earth. Your righteousness is our salvation, and You have remembered us in mercy and faithfulness. Grant us to love You above all things and to hate what is evil. Preserve our souls from every assault of the evil one and cause the light of Your salvation to shine forth in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Healing the Centurion’s Servant—Matthew 8:1-13</b> <b>St Titus, Pastor and Confessor—Acts 20:28-35</b>	
Monday	King Josiah Restores the Worship—2 Chronicles 34:29-33	2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Tuesday	King Josiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 35:1-27	2 Corinthians 11:1-15
Wednesday	Jeremiah Is Put into Prison—Jeremiah 37:1-21	2 Cor. 11:16-33
Thursday	Jeremiah Is Thrown into a Cistern—Jeremiah 38:1-28	2 Corinthians 12:1-13
Friday	The Fall of Jerusalem—2 Kings 25:1-21	2 Cor. 12:14-21
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Jonah 1:1-17	Romans 13:8-10

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism— Part IV

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.	Third Grade +
Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:	First Grade +
<b>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death</b>	Kindergarten +
<b>in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]</b>	Second Grade +

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

**Collect for the week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany:**

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor (January 26)**

Almighty God, You called Titus to the work of pastor and teacher. Make all shepherds of Your flock diligent in preaching Your holy Word so that the whole world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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...”**

**Baptism:** Dorothea Gwen Kütemeier, infant daughter of Eric and Kayla Kütemeier.

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Mackenzie Dhein (1/28), Gwyneth Ring (1/31).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Larry and Tammy Haga (1/27).

**The Sick:** Jon Bruss recovering after hospitalization; Pat Rothe, Joanne McMiller recovering from pneumonia; Harry (neighbor of Ben & Betsy Banasik), Don Fell, Rev. Bob Johnson, Mark Gretzinger, Bob Corso, Cassandra Duessler recovering from surgery; Rachel Preus (wife of Samuel Preus), in treatment for breast cancer during pregnancy; Tempy McCombe, Steven Jahnke, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), Rev. Luke Boehringer, Rev. David Groth, Jean Reuss, and Steve Hayes in cancer treatment.

**Those in hospice:** Bob Ruess, (Jennifer Duessler’s sister-in-law’s father).

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“The People That in Darkness Sat” (stanzas 1-4)**

**412**

**Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 2, 2025**

**Hymns: 533, 557, 576, 819, 553, 919**

**Jonah 1:1-17:** Unlike our Lord Jesus, Jonah resisted the call of the Lord to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins to the Ninevites. He fled from the Lord’s call on board a ship. The storm that engulfed the ship and threatened to destroy her is a picture of the judgment of God against sin. Jonah had been called to be prophet of salvation in the Lord’s stead, and so Jonah had to be thrown into the raging sea. In this event, we see a picture of what the prophet who is greater than Jonah came to do. Our Lord Jesus would be plunged into the raging sea of sin, death, and the judgment of God’s Law for us. He was swallowed up by the great sea creature of death. He satisfied the wrath of God, taking our place upon the cross, and there was a great calm—the calm of sins forgiven. This event is linked not only to Jesus’ stilling of the storm upon the Sea of Galilee, but His ultimate mission of stilling the storm of divine judgment for us in His death and resurrection.

**Romans 13:8-10:** Love is the fulfillment of the Law because true love is concerned about the welfare of the neighbor. The commandments describe the works of love which are not to be done for our own credit, but for the good of another. This is what Jesus did for us. In keeping the Law, He not only died for sin as the Law demanded but He was obedient to the Law in love for us.

**Matthew 8:23-27:** Jesus arose from sleep and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. The miracle of the stilling of the storm is a picture of exactly what Jesus came to do in His suffering, death, and resurrection. The great tempest upon the Sea of Galilee, that threatened to destroy the disciples in their little boat, is a picture of the problem of sin, death and judgment that threatens to destroy us all. Jesus suffered what we deserve in order to rescue us from death, reconcile us to God, and give us the eternal peace of sins forgiven. So in the miracle of the stilling of the storm, we see the faithless and powerless disciples who are unable to save themselves from certain destruction. Jesus, who had entered into the boat and was asleep, arose from sleep and with a word brought about a great calm and rescued the disciples from death. Is this not a wonderful picture of how our Lord rose from the dead and with the Word of forgiveness calmed every accusation of the Law and bestowed upon us a great peace? “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” He is the prophet greater than Jonah! He entered into the tempest of our sin and death and by His suffering and death He procured salvation for us all. Now, having risen from the dead, His Word gives peace and salvation to all who will receive it.