

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
 February 2, through February 9, 2025

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “A Lover’s Word”**—This week we begin two weeks of meditation on Confession and the Office of the Keys. These headings from the Catechism might sound dry and sterile to some, but these sections are all about receiving “a Lover’s Word.” Jesus’ Word of forgiveness is a “Lover’s Word”—the Word of Him who loved us, His bride, so much that He laid down His life in death to cover the ugliness of our sin and rebellion against God. Just as the words of our beloved in marriage strengthen our relationship with our spouse, so the words of absolution from our lover Jesus strengthen our relationship with Him. Even more than this, His Word of forgiveness makes us beautiful, strengthens our faith against sin and temptation, and gives us comfort. What woman doesn’t want to hear the word of him who loves her? This is how we should view the absolution, and why we should learn to value it and long to hear it from our pastors.

## 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: He Rebuked the Wind and the Waves!

### 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 107 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

*Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, as You were faithful to Your promises of salvation for the Children of Israel, in spite of their rebellion against You, teach us to rely upon Your promises of salvation and mercy to us, that we might remain steadfast and immovable in the true faith and in a life of holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Jesus Calms the Sea—Matthew 8:23-27</b> <b>Presentation of Our Lord—Luke 2:22-32</b>	
Monday	The Fall of Judah to Babylon—2 Chron. 36:11-21/Jeremiah 39:1-18	2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Tuesday	Ezekiel’s Vision—Ezekiel 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-9
Wednesday	Ezekiel Is Called to Be a Prophet to an Exiled People—Ezek. 2:1-3:3	1 Peter 1:10-21
Thursday	Daniel and His Three Friends Are Taken to Babylon—Daniel 1:1-21	1 Peter 1:22-2:3
Friday	King Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream—Daniel 2:1-23	1 Peter 2:4-10
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Exodus 3:1-14	2 Peter 1:16-21

### 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 +

Which are these?

Third Grade +

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?

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

**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.*

**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:** *Elsi Jane Knutson, infant daughter of Brian and Heaven Knutson.*

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** *Greta Hartwig (2/3), Lillian Haga (2/5), McKenna DePue, Lacy Brandau (2/8).*

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

**Deliberation of a Call:** *Nathanael Hahn to serve as an Academy teacher.*

**The Sick:** *Pat Rothe recovering from pneumonia; Rev. Bob Johnson, Mark Gretzinger recovering from surgery; Rachel Preus, 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**

**“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” (stanzas 1-4)**

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**Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**February 9, 2025**

**Hymns: 415, 413, 810, 416, 414, 874, 872**

**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 “eyewitnesses 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.*