

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Quinquagesima Sunday
March 2, through March 9, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Why are Guests Asked to Speak with the Pastor before Communing? —There are two reasons why guests are asked to speak with the Pastor before going to the Lord's Supper. First, it is the responsibility of the pastor to examine the confession of faith of those who come to the Altar. Our concern is that they know their sin, they trust in Christ alone for salvation, and they believe that He is giving them His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament. "Worthy reception" of the Sacrament requires such faith. Second, the Lord's Supper is not merely an individual Christian in communion with his Lord. It is also the declaration that the communicant believes and confesses the faith with the church in that place. The external teaching and confession of the church that we belong to is important because it is the external Word and sacraments that nurture and sustain that saving faith.

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: Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:27

Whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Psalm 31 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, You are my fortress and strength. In the righteousness of Your Son deliver me from all the forces that would seek to destroy my faith and confidence in You. Teach me to commend myself to your mercy and to believe with all my heart that my times are in Your hand for my eternal good; through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord. 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	A Blind Man Receives His Sight—Luke 18:31-43	
Monday	Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night—John 3:1-16	Numbers 21:4-9
Tuesday	Jesus Catechizes Nicodemus—John 3:16-21	Ephesians 5:8-21
Wednesday	Midweek: The Preparation of the Passover—Luke 22:1-13	Exodus 12:1-14
Thursday	John the Baptist Exalts the Christ—John 3:22-36	1 Corinthians 2:6-16
Friday	The Woman at the Well—John 4:1-30, 39-42	Rev. 21:9-11, 22-22:5
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Genesis 3:1-21	2 Corinthians 6:1-10

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar— Review and Who receives this sacrament worthily?

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? (review) It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.	First Grade +
Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: (review) Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."	Second Grade + Kindergarten +
Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the week of Quinquagesima Sunday:

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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 Ash Wednesday:

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God...

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: Christine Franklin (3/3), Randy Burk (3/5), Kendra Knoerr (3/6).

Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army National Guard); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army).

God’s Blessing/Birthdays: Florence Schmidt (3/5) –99 years old, Doris Erickson (3/12) –98 years old.

Thanksgiving: Rev. David Groth - cancer remission following chemotherapy.

The Sick: Sharon Martin having shoulder surgery (3/3); Duane Perry-in rehab; Frank Kopling, and June Brueck recovering from surgery; David Berger gaining strength after feeding tube placement.

Cancer Treatment: Steven Jahnke (nephew of Donna Lovas)-whose cancer has spread to the bone, Gary Luderman, Rachel Preus, Tempy McCombe, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), and Rev. Luke Boehringer, in cancer treatment.

Those in hospice: Dave Evenstad (father-in-law of Erik Krueger).

Those Who Mourn: Bob & Jean Reuss (parents of Jenny Duessler’s sister-in-law).

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 Invocabit Sunday — The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

Hymns: 562, 561, 424, 724, 718, 655

Genesis 3:1-21: Attack the Word of God so that Adam turns away from the source of life with God—that was Satan’s aim. The result was sin—unbelief that separated us from God—and because of it we die and our relationship with God is destroyed. What Adam failed to be and to do, our Lord Jesus did for us. Our deliverance from Satan is bound up with the Son of God becoming man for us, suffering the death that we deserved by our sin, and faithfully trusting in His Father to the end. Where our father Adam wavered and fell, Jesus remained steadfast and immovable from His faith in the Father.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10: As long as we live, the Lord’s call remains constant: “Now is the day of salvation! Come to Me!”

Matthew 4:1-11: “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Every step of the way in His time of testing and temptation from the evil one, Jesus quoted Scripture and defended Himself and the honor of His Father with the Word of God. Even when Satan twisted and misused God’s Word, Jesus countered by faithfully proclaiming God’s Word in reply. As strange as it sounds to our ears, Jesus did not even rely upon Himself; instead, He relied solely upon His Father’s good and gracious Word. He was faithful unto death that we might be rescued from every manifestation of unfaithfulness from our sinful nature.