

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25 through February 1, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Fishers of Men” — *In this week’s Gospel Jesus extends the call into the ministry to four men who had become His disciples through the ministry of John the Baptist. Like all of us, after their baptism they returned to their vocation as fishermen in the town of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” He was calling them to leave their vocation and enter into the Office of the Apostolic Ministry in which they would no longer fish in the way they had, but would now “fish for men” through the preaching of the Gospel. We are all called to bear witness to our Lord in whatever vocation God has given us, but there is the office of the Holy Ministry in which men are called to full time service in the preaching of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments. The Church includes both the witness of laymen in their earthly callings and the witness of her ministers in fulltime service to the Church and the world.*

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 Will Make You Fishers of Men!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Galatians 2:20

**I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Psalm 27 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 27 O Lord, You are my light and my salvation; You are the strength of my life! Therefore grant that I may not fear any enemy of my faith but rest in the confidence of our salvation and hide me in the shelter of Your divine services of Word and Sacrament; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33
Evening	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Epiphany 3: Fishers of Men—Matthew 4:12-25	
Monday	St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor—Acts 16:1-51 (transferred)	1 Timothy 6:11-16
Tuesday	The Conversion of St. Paul: Acts 9:1-22 (transferred)	Galatians 1:11-24
Wednesday	St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor: Titus 1:1-9 (transferred)	Acts 20:28-35
Thursday	Benjamin Returns with His Brothers to Egypt—Genesis 43:1-34	John 7:14-18
Friday	Joseph’s Cup Is Found in Benjamin’s Sack—Genesis 44:1-17	John 7:19-24
Saturday	Epiphany 4: Micah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism—What does such baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?

<i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> 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 +
<i>Where is this written?</i> St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:	First Grade +
We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death	Kindergarten +
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]	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Third Sunday after the 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 St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor

Lord Jesus Christ, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds such as Timothy to guide and feed Your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Conversion of St. Paul

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; 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 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

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...” (LSB p. 294)

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Mackenzie Dhein (1/28); Gwyneth Ring (1/31).

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

The sick: Kathy May, undergoing surgery this Thursday, Del Duwe, Jerry Freckmann, and Marcy Gall recently hospitalized, Allen Brook (Lily Ficken’s Grandfather) recovering at home, Phyllis Grover (Robin Oehlert’s sister) suffering with end-stage COPD; Cindy Kunkel, diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease; Terry O’Neill, and Mark Anderson in rehab.

In cancer treatment: Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s Brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Brusses), Mary O’Flynn (acquaintance of the Rothses), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

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

Hymn of the Week

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (Stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

Hymns: 394, 842, 823, 621, 810, 526

Micah 6:1-8: Had the Lord done anything to the children of Israel that caused them to sin and rebel against Him? No! Has the Lord done anything to us that we should squander His love in continual rebellion against Him? No! He redeemed Israel; He rescued them from all their enemies and set them free from bondage; He loved them with an everlasting love, yet they rebelled against Him. He has done the same for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. He does not desire our sacrifices and good works to please Him. He desires only that we receive His mercy and learn to love it as the source of our lives. He desires that we walk in the humility of faith with Him whose love and mercy is constant for us.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31: True and faithful preaching always centers on the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. False and unfaithful preaching directs the focus of faith away from Jesus to ourselves and teaches us to boast of things that we have done. Everything that we are and have as Christians that is worth anything comes from Christ alone through His suffering and death for our salvation. He is our “wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”

Matthew 5:1-12: The beatitudes are among the most beautiful and well-known words of Jesus. Each beatitude begins with the word “blessed.” The state of “blessedness” always refers to the gifts of God’s grace. We are blessed because of what He has done for us and because of what He gives to us. But this blessedness begins with the blessed Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, who received everything from the Father as a gift that He might bless us with every spiritual blessing. In Holy Baptism we are united to this blessed Man, Christ Jesus, and by faith we share in the gifts of this blessedness. Jesus was poor in spirit; He mourned; He was meek; He hungered and thirsted for righteousness; He was merciful; He was pure in heart; He was God’s peacemaker; and He was persecuted for righteousness’ sake. By the grace of God we share in this most beautiful and blessed state which has God’s promise in Christ: the poor in spirit shall receive the kingdom of heaven; those who mourn shall be comforted; the meek shall inherit the earth; those who hunger and thirst shall be filled; those who are merciful shall obtain mercy; those who are peacemakers shall be called the sons of God; and the kingdom of heaven belongs to all who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. It is a most beautiful and comforting assurance to know that we are blessed for Christ’s sake, even though we struggle with sin, temptation, and persecution, because the kingdom of heaven is ours and Christ’s righteousness covers us.