

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1 through February 8, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — He Was Raised for Our Justification — “Christ was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25). “When I look at my sins, they slay me. Therefore I must look upon Christ, who drew my sins upon Himself and has become a blessing. Now they lie no longer on my conscience but on Christ, and they seek to slay Him. Let us see, then, how they get on with Him. They cast Him down and kill Him. O, Lord God, where is now my Christ and my Redeemer? Then God comes and brings Christ forth and makes Him above, and not only alive, but He sets Him in heaven and lets Him rule over all things. Now where is sin? It is on the gibbet. And when I hold on to this and believe it I have a joyful conscience, like Christ, for I am without sin. Now I dare death, the devil, sin, and hell to do me harm. Inasmuch as I am a descendant of Adam they can harm me; I must shortly die. But now that Christ has laid upon Himself my sin, and has died for it, and been slain for it, they can do me no harm, for Christ is too strong for them. They cannot hold Him. He breaks forth and smites them to the ground, and ascends into heaven, binds and fetters sin and sorrow, and rules over them eternally. Therefore I have a good conscience, I am joyful and blessed, and fear those tyrants no longer, for Christ has taken my sin away from me and laid it on Himself. But they cannot remain on Him.” — Martin Luther

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: We Share in the Blessedness of Christ.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 15 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 15: O Lord, teach me to walk by faith in Your promises, to speak the truth that edifies others, and to live a life of love and mercy for the benefit of all that I may remain steadfast in Christ all the days of my life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51
Evening	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Epiphany 4: The Blessedness of Christ—Matthew 5:1-12	
Monday	The Presentation of Our Lord: Luke 2:22-40	
Tuesday	Judah Intercedes for Benjamin Before Joseph—Gen. 44:18-45:3	John 7:25-31
Wednesday	Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 45:4-28	John 7:32-36
Thursday	Jacob Journeys to Egypt to See Joseph—Genesis 46:1-27	John 7:37-8:1
Friday	Jacob Settles in the Land of Goshen—Genesis 46:28-47:12	John 8:2-12
Saturday	Joseph's Vow; Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons—Gen. 47:27-48:21	John 8:13-20
	Epiphany 5: Isaiah 58:3-9a	1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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?

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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after the 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 Presentation of Our Lord

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

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins

Wednesday: For marriage and family

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord's Supper

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed

Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Greta Hartwig (2/3); Lilian Haga (2/5).

Wedding anniversaries: Jeanine and Aaron Walentoski (2/14).

The sick: Kathy May, recovering from surgery; Jerry Freckmann, Judi Smith, 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; 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'Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothes), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those who mourn: The families and friends of Del Duwe and John Kreuser (Doris Erickson's son-in-law).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

865

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Hymns: 563, 578, 568, 575, 825, 865

Isaiah 58:3-9a: The true “fast” that pleases God is not the arbitrary decision to refrain from eating certain foods, but the kind of self-denial that considers others better than ourselves and that lives in mercy and compassion for other sinners. “Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free...to share your bread with the hungry...When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-16: The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian congregations that the heart of his ministry among them was that he determined not to know anything among them “except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” This was not Paul’s personal program for how to be a minister. His words define what must always be at the heart of the Church’s work in every time and in every place. All of Christian doctrine and life is understood and flows from Christ’s atoning sacrifice for us upon the cross.

Matthew 5:13-20: Christians are called “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” because they have the Gospel of Christ’s forgiveness and believe in Him. The Gospel is like salt that preserves us from sin and death or like light that illuminates the darkness of unbelief and banishes the falsehood of human self-righteousness. Christians must never let go of the Gospel. The Church must continue to preach and confess it in all its truth and purity. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation and the source of true wisdom and real truth. We are called to let the light of the Gospel shine forth in works of mercy and charity that reflect God’s undeserved love for sinners. Jesus did not come to overturn or destroy the demands of the Law, but to fulfill them by the sacrifice of Himself upon the cross. He did the Law and taught the Law in His death upon the cross. His suffering and death for sin is God’s righteousness. We receive it by faith in Him. It is the only righteousness that can save us and the only righteousness that can save the world.