

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
The Week of The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 8 through February 15, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Baptism and the Life of Confession and Absolution**—In Holy Baptism we become Christians. The Lord gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith. Our sin is forgiven for Christ's sake, and we are rescued from eternal death and condemnation. Baptism happens once, but its benefits and privileges endure forever. Baptized Christians are called to live in their baptism daily. This means that we are called to daily contrition and repentance for sin that we might return to the promise of our baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of our faith and life. This makes confession and absolution not only a regular part of the Christian faith and life, but a glorious return to our baptism wherein God made us His children and clothed us with the righteousness of His Son. We should learn to believe that Holy Baptism gives us the rights and privileges of children. In Baptism we are declared to be sons of God through Christ and have the privilege of access to our heavenly Father for Jesus' sake. Because of the ongoing struggle with sin, we are tempted to doubt that we are God's children, that God still loves us, and that it is possible for us to be forgiven. Baptism declares that it is not only possible to be God's Children, but that forgiving our sin is His will for us in Christ. We have the right and privilege to confess our sins daily AND to believe that for Christ's sake our sin is forgiven and that we rise to newness of life precisely because we have been baptized into Christ and are saved from our sin through faith in Him.

## **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 Are in Christ, the Light of the World.**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

### **Verse: Psalm 51:17**

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.**

### **Psalm 112:1-9 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on Psalm 112: Hallelujah! I praise You, O LORD, for You bring light out of darkness and uphold the cause of the faithful. Give us steadfast faith in Your commandments and a generous heart toward all. Shed Your love abroad in all the earth and preserve true faith to the next generation of Christians, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71
Evening	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>Epiphany 5: You Are the Light of the World—Matt. 5:13-20</b>	
Monday	Jacob's Blessings Before He Dies—Gen. 49:1 (2-27) 28-50:14	John 8:21-30
Tuesday	Joseph Continues to Show Mercy to His Brothers—Gen. 50:15-26	John 8:31-36
Wednesday	The Birth of Moses—Exodus 1:1-2:10	John 8:37-45
Thursday	Moses Flees to Midian—Exodus 2:11-25	John 8:46-51
Friday	I AM Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush—Exodus 3:1-17	John 8:52-59
Saturday	Transfiguration: Exodus 24:8-18	2 Peter 1:16-21

### **Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys**

*What is Confession? (review)*

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 is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

First Grade +

Where is this written?

Second Grade +

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:

The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, **Receive the Holy Spirit.**

**If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;**

**if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.** [John 20:22-23]

What do you believe according to these words?

Third Grade +

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our Lord dealt with us Himself.

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

#### Collect for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:** Lacy Brandau, McKenna DePue (2/8); Laura Prahl (2/9); Joshua Fischer, Abby; Joshua Fischer, Abby DePue (2/11); Katie Larson (02/13).

**The sick:** Bob Corso and Kathy May, recovering from surgeries; Terry O’Neill, and Mark Anderson in rehab.

**In cancer treatment:** Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), 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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

895

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

February 15, 2026

**Hymns:** 415, 942, 948, 413, 960, 962, 414, 621, 417, 938, 603

**Exodus 24:8-18:** In this majestic scene upon Mount Sinai, the Lord confirmed the covenant He made with Israel through the sprinkling of blood. This sprinkling prefigured the sprinkling of the blood of the New Covenant that we receive in Holy Baptism and that we partake of in the Holy Supper. In this vision the glory of God is revealed to Moses. It was “like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.” This picture of God’s glory was frightening and awesome to Israel, not because it was merely the display of God’s raw power, but precisely because it was a manifestation of His overwhelming goodness, holiness, and love. Sinners tremble at the revelation of such glory because it is so fundamentally different from our nature as descendants of Adam. The Tablets of Stone and the Law of the Lord that Moses received included the Ten Commandments, to be sure, but it also included the promises of salvation and the ordinances of Israel’s Divine Services through which the Lord would continually manifest His glory at the Tabernacle through the forgiveness of sins in the shedding of Lamb’s blood. This revelation of glory finds its fulfillment in Jesus who was not only transfigured upon the Mount of Transfiguration, but who especially manifested His glory upon Mount Calvary in His crucifixion.

**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.