

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of The First Sunday in Lent

February 22 through March 1, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week —The Lord's Supper: A Pledge of the Resurrection of the Body — *The Lord's Supper was, since ancient times, called "the medicine of immortality." In the Lord's Supper we receive Jesus' true body and blood. This is the same body and blood that was born of the Virgin Mary and that was given and shed for us for the forgiveness of all our sin. "Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." It is precisely because the body and blood of Jesus delivers to us Christ's forgiveness, that His body and blood becomes the source of restored life with God, the resurrection of our bodies, and eternal life, incorruption, and immortality. When we receive Jesus' true body and blood in faith, we are receiving the very pledge from our Savior that on the last day we shall be raised bodily from the dead, and our mortal flesh will put on immortality and incorruption.*

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: The Valiant One Fights for Us!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 6:35b

I am the bread of life.

He who comes to Me shall never hunger,

and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Psalm 32:1-7 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 32: Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 88 | 89 | 91 | 92 | 95, 96 | 98, 100 | 101 | 103 |
| Evening | 87 | 90 | 93 | 94 | 97 | 99 | 102 | 104 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| Sunday | Lent 1: The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11 | |
| Monday | Plagues—Ex. 8:1-4 (7-10) 13-25, 32; 9:1-4, 7-35; 10:3-6 (7-11) 20-29 | John 10:1-6 |
| Tuesday | St. Matthias, Apostle: Acts 1:15-26 | Matthew 11:25-30 |
| Wednesday | The Death of the Firstborn Is Announced—Exodus 11:1-10 | John 10:7-15 |
| Thursday | The Passover Is Instituted—Exodus 12:1-14 | John 10:16-21 |
| Friday | The Death of the Firstborn—Exodus 12:21-30 | John 10:22-31 |
| Saturday | Lent 2: Genesis 12:1-9 | Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 |

Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Where is this written?</i> | Second Grade + |
| The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: (Sung) | |
| 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." | Kindergarten + |
| 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." | |
| <i>What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?</i> | First Grade + |
| These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," | |
| show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. | |
| For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. | |

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
 Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things,
 but the words written here: **“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”**
 These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament.
 Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Second Grade +

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

Collect for the First Sunday in Lent

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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. Matthias, Apostle

Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; 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: Sarah Piper, Zachariah Schneider (2/26); Abigail Bender, Ali Meehan (2/27); Kevin Gierach (2/28).

The sick: Carol Bender and Katie Sumpter (Nicola Giordano’s aunt), hospitalized; Kathy May, Bob Corso and Marcy Gall recovering at home following hospitalizations; Terry O’Neill, and Mark Anderson in rehab.

In cancer treatment: Bob Rothe, beginning treatment for a recurrence of cancer; Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flynn (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those in hospice care: Gary Luderman and Richard Leach (Peggy Lundberg’s father)

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Doug Duessler (Nate Duessler’s cousin), and Beverly Bergner (Jim Wollin’s and Cheryl Piper’s aunt).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (Stanzas 1-2 and 5)

440

Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Hymns: 504, 571, 623, 437, 543, 919

Genesis 12:1-9: Abraham heard the Gospel in the promise He received from the Lord. At the heart of that promise are these words: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” All the families of the earth are blessed through Abraham because of the “Seed of Abraham,” our Lord Jesus Christ, who would be “lifted up” “to draw all people to Himself.”

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17: Paul confirms that what Abraham received from the Lord was the Gospel of God’s grace and salvation, that a sinner is justified by faith in Christ, the Seed of Abraham, and not by the works of the Law.

John 3:1-17: Jesus’ catechesis of Nicodemus amplifies the meaning of Jesus’ command to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Holy Baptism is God’s work. It is the “new birth from above” by which the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us and we are made the children of God. The Holy Spirit is given in Baptism that we might believe in the only begotten Son of God who was “lifted up” on the cross for our salvation. Jesus’ teaching that we must be “born of water and the Spirit” confirms the teaching of the Small Catechism that “Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word.” God’s Spirit is promised in the water of Baptism by God’s Word and command to baptize. That no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born from above confirms the catechism’s teaching that Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe as the words and promises of God declare. Jesus’ teaching that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” helps us understand Jesus’ promise, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Jesus’ forgiveness and salvation is the very content of Holy Baptism to be received by faith. Faith, therefore, clings to the promises of God in the water of Baptism. It is not ordinary water that saves, but the Word of God that is in and with the water that carries the promise of everlasting life. Throughout Jesus’ catechesis with Nicodemus, He emphasizes the work of the Triune God by whose name Baptism receives its power to give the new birth from above that sinners might see the kingdom of God. God the Father gives the new birth by water and the Holy Spirit that we might believe in the only-begotten Son of God who was lifted up for our salvation.