

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 The Week of The Second Sunday in Lent
 March 1 through March 8, 2026

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: God So Loved the World that He Gave His Only Begotten Son!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—
 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Psalm 121 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 121: My help comes from You, O Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. I commend myself to Your care and keeping, for You will never slumber or sleep, but promise to keep me from all evil and preserve my life in Christ. Preserve my going out and my coming in to the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that strengthened by Your grace I may ever abide in the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24
Evening	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Lent 2: Jesus Catechizes Nicodemus—John 3:1-17	
Monday	The Exodus—Exodus 12:31-42	John 10:31-42
Tuesday	Israel Journeys to the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17–14:9	John 11:1-16
Wednesday	The Lord Fights for Israel—Exodus 14:10-31	John 11:17-37
Thursday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19	John 11:38-44
Friday	Bitter Water Made Sweet—Exodus 15:22-27	John 11:45-57
Saturday	Lent 3: Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8

Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

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, sung)

Second Grade +

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."**

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.

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

Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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...”

Birth: Heidi Isabelle Haga, infant daughter of Tyler and Rachel Haga.

Baptismal anniversaries: Jim Daleiden (3/1), Christine Franklin (3/3); Randall Burk (3/5); Kendra Knoerr (3/6).

The sick: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paalova hospitalized after a serious motorcycle accident; Rev. Paul Ficken (Lily Ficken’s father) recovering from hospitalized for diabetes; Marion Ruhbusch, hospitalized for testing; Carol Bender, 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’Flyng (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.

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Richard Leach (Peggy Lundberg’s father).

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

Hymn of the Week

“When in the Hour of Deepest Need” (Stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Hymns: 849, 823, 699, 430, 693, 573

Exodus 17:1-7: Because of the people’s sin, Moses was commanded to strike the Rock with his rod, so that the people would receive water to save them. This scene is a type of what happened to our Lord, who is the Rock of our salvation. Because of our sin and rebellion against God, Jesus was struck upon the altar of the cross for our salvation. Out of Jesus’ side there flowed the water and the blood of salvation; through His piercing we receive the water of life that saves us from our sin. Let us receive the water of life in repentance and faith, lest we perish like those Jews who rejected this gift in their impenitence and unbelief in the wilderness.

Romans 5:1-8: “Justification” means to be declared righteous for Jesus’ sake through faith in Him. This declaration that we are “righteous for Jesus’ sake” is what gives us peace with God and free access to Him. It is because we are justified by His grace and not by our works that we are bold to endure tribulations because through our tribulations God is teaching us a perseverance that leads to the hope of the resurrection and eternal life in Christ. We can be certain of our justification because it is based entirely upon what God has done for us in Christ: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42): Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well teaches us that He is the Savior of all people, especially those who are the most unworthy and the most outcast of society. Samaritans were half-breed Jews who did not believe in the worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. Even more than this, the Samaritan woman is portrayed as a notorious sinner who had many adulterous relationships. When Jesus is shown to be the Savior of all people, it does not mean that He does not take sin seriously. Quite to the contrary, Jesus exposes this woman’s sin that she might be drawn to Him for forgiveness. The awesome reality of the Gospel is that, even though she is such a notorious sinner, the Lord really does love her and really does desire to save her from her sin by offering to her the water of life. Jesus’ ministry of Law and Gospel to this woman resulted in her conversion. She was brought to repentance and faith in Christ. Out of this repentant faith in Christ, she then began to speak boldly of Him to others who need His salvation. This is always the way it is for those who have been touched by Christ’s salvation.