

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent
 February 17, 2013 through February 24, 2013

Catechesis Notes for the Week—“Luther's Word on a Wonderful Treasure”—“We urge you...to confess and express your needs, not for the purpose of performing a work but to hear what God wishes to say to you. The Word or absolution, I say, is what you should concentrate on, magnifying and cherishing it as a great and wonderful treasure to be accepted with all praise and gratitude. ... If you are a Christian, you should be glad to run more than a hundred miles for confession, not under compulsion but rather coming and compelling us to offer it. For here the compulsion must be inverted; we must come under the command (pastors are commanded to absolve penitents) and you must come into freedom (penitent sinners are set free by the absolution). We compel no man, but allow ourselves to be compelled, just as we are compelled to preach and administer the sacrament.” From *The Large Catechism*, Tappert edition, p. 459 and 460.

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.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse of the week: John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Psalm 91 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: Confession

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 +

First Grade +

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.

Third Grade +

Readings for the Week of the First Sunday in Lent

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Satan Tempts Jesus—Luke 4:1-13	Gen. 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28
Monday	No School—President's Day	Gen. 6:1-7:5	Mark 3:1-19
Tuesday	Jeremiah Is Put into Prison—Jeremiah 37:1-21	Gen. 7:11-8:12	Mark 3:20-35
Wednesday	The Fall of Jerusalem—2 Kings 25:1-21	Gen. 8:13-9:17	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday	Jeremiah Is Thrown into a Cistern—Jeremiah 38:1-28	Gen. 11:27-12:20	Mark 4:21-41
Friday	The Fall of Judah to Babylon—2 Chronicles 36:11-21 and Jeremiah 39:1-18	Gen. 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Gen. 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the week of 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.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work, for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacraments of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In our Prayers at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Austin Griffin, Johnny Bell, Rachel Butler, Bertha Stallings, Richard Harkey, Dawn Holden, Mike St. John, Doug Holden, Ben Adamson, Berneice Karner, Robert Harris, Ray Pate, Suzanne Sommerfeld, Kaelin Mardis, Joshua Carter, Louis Carter, Bella Saturnio, Barbara Thompson, Joe Schober, Melvin Mitchell, Jerry Piering, Larry Piering, Eugene Kroeger, Nathan McKee, Amy Hedman

Strength

The Odom Family, Edith Eschbacher, Beth Mitchell, Ron Sommerfeld, Jason Carter, Autumn Funke, Rhoda Brewer, Jonathan Brewer

Employment

Bob Clark

Peace and Comfort

Expectant Mothers

Christy Heath, Miranda Mobley, Kymberly Rohloff

Military and Over Seas

Brian Adamson, Shannon Brooks, Nick Finstad, William Funke

Blessings

The marriage of Kristina Funke and Tony Raymond on Friday

Mission / Ministries

The missions we support

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

Hymn of Week

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

LSB 610