
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 2-8, 2016*

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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Congregant" (C). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Christ is the Redeemer of Creation!

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Mark 10:14b-15

L "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

C Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

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

PSALM PRAYER

L Most gracious God, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives. Assist them always by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows, grow in love toward You and for each other, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

L First: What is Baptism?	
C Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.	Third Grade +
L What is that word of God?	
C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:	First Grade +
C "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)	Kindergarten +
L Second: What benefits does Baptism give?	
C Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.	Third Grade +
L What are these words and promises of God?	
C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)	Second Grade +

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
Tuesday	John the Baptist and Jesus' Childhood and adolescence. [A.D. 4-26]	Luke 1:80a; Luke 2:40-52	Matthew 1-2
Wednesday	John the Baptist's First Public Appearance [Judea; spring of A.D. 26]	Mark 1:1-6; Luke 3:1-6; Matthew 3:1-6; John 1:6-8	Matthew 3-4
Thursday	The First Lesson for the Transfiguration of our Lord	Exodus 34:29-35	Matthew 5
Friday	The Epistle Lesson for the Transfiguration of our Lord	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Matthew 6-7
Saturday	The Gospel for the Transfiguration of our Lord	Luke 9:28-36	Matthew 8-9
Sunday	John the Baptist's Forceful Preaching	Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-14	Matthew 10-11
Monday	John the Baptist's Messianic Proclamation	Matthew 3:11-12; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:15-18	Matthew 12-13

PRAYERS

Collect for the Transfiguration of Our Lord:

L Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Tuesday: For the Church in our nation and throughout the world; for the congregations, clergy, laity, officers, teachers and students of theology of our synod; for church bodies of our fellowship around the globe; for organizations for men's, women's, and youth work. For children of the Church; for Christian education; for parish schools; for teachers and assistants.*
- Wednesday: For families, children, relatives, and friends; for Christian marriages; for the nurture of children in the gospel. For young people and young people's work in the church. For single people and their labor in the Lord. For households; for the men and women of the congregation.*
- Thursday: For our country and its people; for repentance, faith, love, honesty, and obedience to law; for unity, justice, and peace; for those in authority: the president, the congress, the governor, city officials, and all those who make and administer our laws; for our armed forces at home and abroad; for good citizenship. For the commerce, industry, and agriculture in our land. For all useful arts; for the right use of science and technology. For enemies; for the indifferent; for the lapsed.*
- Friday: For the suffering; for the poor; for the hungry and cold; for refugees; for prisoners; for the oppressed; for the mentally ill; for the despairing. For social workers; for chaplains; for doctors and nurses; for hospitals and other relief agencies. For those in the congregation who suffer: the aged, the sick, the dying, the bereaved, and the lonely.*
- Saturday: For the services tomorrow: for worshipers, listeners, and communicants. For other congregations, their services and ministers. Remembrance of the departed; preparation of the Church for the coming of Christ; remembrance of the brevity of life and of judgment to come; prayer for a blessed death.*
- Sunday: For the holy Christian Church and the congregation; that the blessing of worship and preaching may continue through the week; for the practice of family worship; for the baptized and communicants; for those absent from worship.*
- Monday: For the missions of the Church; for the proclamation of the gospel in all the world; for new and established churches; for organizations that promote and support missions and missionaries; for the raising up of leaders at home and abroad; for zeal in missions at home and open doors throughout the world; for oneness in Spirit and brotherly love. For fellow workers in the parish: Sunday school and Lutheran elementary school teachers, altar guild, musicians, elders, deaconesses, trustees, elected officers, leaders, and volunteers of every kind in the congregation. For one's own vocation and daily work; for the unemployed.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our shut-ins, that they may be comforted in their loneliness by your gracious presence.

The Seelow Family, for thanks, patience, and strength after the birth of their new son, Ezra.

Ezra Seelow, that the Lord may protect him and keep him safe until he is made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism.

For all who are homeless, needy, poverty-stricken, and helpless in the face of an upcoming storm, that they may be kept safe from harm and danger.

Pastor Tom Schneider and his family as he begins his new station of ministry as Christ Ev. Lutheran's (Grand Island, NE) new pastor.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

C In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

C In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION

Jesus Take Us to the Mountain | CWS 712

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus Take Us to the Mountain" (CWS 712). It is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics for the first staff are: "1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain Where, with Pe - ter, 2 What do you want us to see there That your close com- 3 What do you want us to hear there That your dear dis- 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain Where we see you 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, Ris - en and as -". The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics for the second staff are: "James, and John, We are daz - zled by your glo - ry, pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en glo - ri - fied, Where you shout - ed, "It is fin - ished!" cend - ed Lord, Can - not help but tell the sto - ry,". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics for the third staff are: "Light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us Fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like Says of the in - car - nate Word: "Lis - ten, lis - ten, Where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen - All that we have seen and heard, Say with Pe - ter,". The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics for the fourth staff are: "for the night By the vi - sion of that sight. ours you go, Matched to meet our dead - liest foe. ev - 'ry - one; This is my be - lov - ed Son!" tu - ri - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!" James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

The hymn writer reminds us that the glimpse of glory seen in Jesus' transfiguration foreshadows the ultimate glory of Christ displayed at Calvary, hidden under the cross.

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Tune: SILVER SPRING (87 87 77) Carl Schalk, b. 1929 © 1991 Carl Schalk. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

¹ Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"