
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The First Sunday in Lent

February 9-15, 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 "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: *Jesus Was Anointed to Preach the Gospel to Captives!*

INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Galatians 3:26,27

L You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

G For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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	51	54,56	59	60,61	65	66	68
Evening	52,53	55	57,58	62	63,64	67,70	69

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord Jesus, the heavens declare Your glory and the firmament shows Your handiwork. Cause the Word of the Gospel to sound forth in Your church throughout the world that all the nations might be drawn to Your glory and salvation. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

<p>L Third: How can water do such great things?</p> <p>G It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God’s Word which is in and with the water and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.</p> <p>For without God’s Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Third Grade +</p>
<p>L Where is this written?</p> <p>G St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3: “God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,</p>	<p>Kindergarten +</p>
<p>G whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,</p>	<p>First Grade +</p>
<p>G so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. [Titus 3:5-8]</p>	<p>Second Grade +</p>

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	Jesus’ Baptism [<i>Jordan River; Autumn of A.D. 26</i>] Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23a	Matthew 14-15
Wednesday	The Temptation of Jesus [<i>The wilderness of Judea; Autumn of A.D. 26</i>] Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13	Matthew 16-17
Thursday	The First Lesson for the First Sunday in Lent Deuteronomy 26:5-10	Matthew 18-19
Friday	The Epistle Lesson for the First Sunday in Lent Romans 10:8b-13	Matthew 20-21
Saturday	The Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent Luke 4:1-13	Matthew 22
Sunday	John the Baptist’s Testimony and Introduction of Jesus [<i>Bethany, beyond the Jordan; Autumn of A.D. 26</i>] John 1:15, 19-34	Matthew 23
Monday	Christ’s first contact with some of the Twelve. John 1:35-51	Matthew 24-25

PRAYERS

Collect for the First Sunday in Lent:

L Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus ☩ Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G 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.

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 this coming Sunday.

Megan Seelow and Sandy Harp, as they celebrate birthdays this week; and Randy Webb, as he celebrated a birthday last week.

Vicki Webb, Brent Meyer, and all of us, that we remember and appreciate our baptisms, as they celebrate the anniversary of theirs this week.

Vivian Alexander, for solace and comfort as the anniversary of the death of her husband, George, occurred last week.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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

G 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

G 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 OF THE DAY FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

A Mighty Fortress is Our God | CW 200

REFORMATION

200

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks

and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 de - lect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us; We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain

That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do

e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
 what they will - Hate, steal, hurt, or kill -

Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;

On earth is not his e - qual.
 He holds the field for - ev - er.
 One lit - tle word can fell him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. composite.
 Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483-1546.

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.'"