
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Third Sunday in Lent
February 23-29, 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: *This is my Beloved Son! Hear Him!*

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Psalm 103:1-3

L Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

G Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

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	88	89	91	92	95,96	98,100	101
Evening	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

PSALM PRAYER

L Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

<p>L First: What is confession?</p>	<p>G Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.</p>	<p>Kindergarten +</p>
<p>L Second: What sins should we confess?</p>	<p>G 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.</p>	<p>Second Grade +</p>
<p>L How can we recognize these sins?</p>	<p>G Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, or employee? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you hurt anyone by word or deed? Have you been dishonest, careless, wasteful, or done other wrong?</p>	<p>Third 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	John the Baptist's Imprisonment <i>[Machaerus; Autumn of A.D. 27]</i>	Matthew 14:3-5; Mark 6:17-20; Luke 3:19-20	Mark 9
Wednesday	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman <i>[Sychar in Samaria; Autumn of A.D. 27]</i>	Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14a; John 4:1-44	Mark 10
Thursday	The First Lesson for the Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15	Mark 11
Friday	The Epistle Lesson for the Third Sunday in Lent	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Mark 12
Saturday	The Gospel for the Third Sunday in Lent	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Mark 13
Sunday	The Healing of a Capernaum Official's Son <i>[At Cana in Galilee]</i>	John 4:46-54	Mark 14
Monday	The First Rejection of Jesus <i>[Nazareth]</i>	Matthew 4:14-16; Luke 4:16-31a	Mark 15

PRAYERS

Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent:

L Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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.

Randy Webb, as he remembers his baptism this week, we give thanks and praise as he was made a child of God through this precious gift.

Kyle Meyer and Rich Harp, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord grant to them another year of blessing and grace.

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Lord, to You I Make Confession | CW 302

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

302 Lord, to You I Make Confession

1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have
2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,
3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv' n him -
4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it

sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied
I will seek your face. Though your child I dare
self to res - cue me, Died to save me and
in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -

trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.
not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.
re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.
cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.

Led by you to see my er - rors,
Do not for my sins for - sake me;
Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish
Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;

Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

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.'"