
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 1-7, 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: *The Word of the Gospel Frees Us from the Power of Satan*

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

Jeremiah 31:34b

L "They all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.

G For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

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	103	105	107	109	112,113	115	117,118
Evening	104	106	108	110,111	114	116	120,121

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord God, Your angelic ministers serve You in the heavenly realms as they proclaim the message of salvation in Christ Jesus, our Savior. Dispatch Your holy angels to defend us from every Satanic attack upon our faith. Give them victory over the forces of darkness by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of Christ's testament; through the same, 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 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>	Kindergarten +
<p>L What is the use of the keys?</p> <p>G The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners but refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.</p>	First Grade +
<p>L Where is this written?</p> <p>G The holy evangelist John writes in chapter 20, “[Jesus] breathed on [his disciples] and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’” [John 20:22-23]</p>	Second Grade +
<p>L How does a Christian congregation use the keys?</p> <p>G A Christian congregation with its called servant of Christ uses the keys in accordance with Christ’s command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend, and by excluding from the congregation those who are plainly impenitent that they may repent. I believe that when this is done, it is as valid and certain in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us himself.</p>	Third Grade +
<p>L Where is this written?</p> <p>G Jesus says in Matthew, chapter 18, “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” [Matthew 18:18]</p>	Fourth 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	A Remarkable Catch of Fish [<i>Sea of Galilee</i>] Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11	Mark 16
Wednesday	A Busy Sabbath in Capernaum Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-34; Luke 4:31b-41	Luke 1
Thursday	The First Lesson for the Fourth Sunday in Lent Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15	Luke 2
Friday	The Epistle Lesson for the Fourth Sunday in Lent 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 3
Saturday	The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Lent Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Luke 4-5
Sunday	Christ’s First Tour of Galilee Matthew 4:23-25; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:42-44	Luke 6
Monday	The Healing of a Leper [<i>A town in Galilee</i>] Matthew 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16	Luke 7-8

PRAYERS

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent:

L Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; 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.

Oscar Bauch and Easton Haas, as they remember their baptisms this week, that they treasure this gift and continue to walk each day in baptismal grace.

Riley Adelong and Spencer Hansen, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord grant to them another year of blessing and grace.

Arleta Bauch, as she continues to battle health issues, that the Lord continues to provide peace through his Word and Sacraments, and that if it is His will, that any pain and suffering be alleviated.

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | CW 304

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

304

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abc.; tr. composite.
 Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtsches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

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.'"