

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The week of Invocabit (First Sunday in Lent)
February 18-24, 2024*

Catechesis Notes for the week: *The life of a Christian is a life of repentance, that is, dying to sin in confession and being raised in absolution. We live underneath God's forgiveness daily. Throughout this series and our lives, we've asked ourselves how each section has shown us our sins and called us to repentance and faith in God. Here God instructs us that He doesn't speak His forgiveness in a vacuum or directly into our heart, but through His minister. The point of confession is not make ourselves feel bad or to enumerate every last sin, but to acknowledge our sin, lay it bare before our God and, most importantly, hear His forgiveness. We go not because we have to, but because we want to hear our Bridegroom's voice speaking His forgiving love to us yet again. This section calls us to repentance for not living in repentance and faith, for neglecting Holy Absolution, and for viewing it as unimportant or anti-Lutheran. It leads us to repentance and faith in Christ who always forgives us and restores us through His minister.*

Theme: Faith clings to the Word.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 51:1-2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<i>What is Confession?</i> 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.	Preschool+
<i>What sins should we confess?</i> 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.	1st Grade+
<i>Which are these?</i> Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING		<i>The Story Bible</i> page
Monday	Mark 2:1-12	327

Tuesday	Luke 17:11-17	377
Wednesday	Luke 7:36-50	339
Thursday	John 4:1-26	316
Friday	Acts 10:24-48	437
Saturday	Genesis 32:22-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7; Matthew 25:21-28	(1 Samuel 3:1-18; 169)

PRAYER

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

Example:

Repeat the teaching on Confession and the Keys

A teaching: Dear Father, in Confession and the Keys You teach me that You graciously forgive me all my sins for sake of Your Son through the mouth of Your called and ordained minister.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for blotting out all my sins through Jesus' blood and for announcing it to me continually.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have not longed to hear Your forgiving words, but have despised this rite.

A prayer: I ask You to forgive my apathy and grant me a zeal to hear Your eternal voice through Your servant.

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Prayer for the First Sunday in Lent

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer: and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty; to defend us from all those who rise up against us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever.

Luther's Morning/Evening Prayer

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.