

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
February 3, 2008 through February 10, 2008

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Farewell to Alleluias” — The Epiphany Season began with the announcement of Jesus’ birth by the Star and His Baptism in the Jordan River. It ends with the Transfiguration and the Father repeating His comforting word of approval: “This is My beloved Son! Hear Him!” We now begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a penitential season in which the focus on contrition and repentance increases in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. It has been a long custom to mark this emphasis by omitting the singing of the “alleluias” and the “Gloria in excelsis” as we move toward our Lord’s passion and death.

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: This Is My Beloved Son! Hear Him!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 2 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, deliver us from a world that is set against Your Son, and give us faith and courage to confess His holy name faithfully in the face of any opposition, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	103	5	42	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	117, 139	84, 29	102, 133	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: Confession

<p>What is Confession? 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.</p>	Kindergarten +
<p>What sins should we confess? 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>	Second Grade +
<p>Which are these? 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?</p>	Third Grade +

Readings for the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and the Beginning of Lent

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-9	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
Monday	Joseph Feeds His Brothers in Egypt—Gen. 42:25-38	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
Tuesday	Benjamin Returns with His Brothers to Egypt—Gen. 43:1-34	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday: Jesus Is Anointed—Mt. 26:2-16	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
Thursday	Joseph’s Cup Is Found in Benjamin’s Sack—Gen. 44:1-17	Genesis 1:20-2:3	Mark 1:14-28
Friday	Judah Intercedes for Benjamin—Gen. 44:18-45:3	Genesis 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Genesis 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Genesis 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord:

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent:

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. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

- The preaching of the Gospel throughout the world.*
- Lance and Ann Carus celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.*
- Rev. Edwin Suelflow, recuperating from knee replacement surgery.*
- Don Weber, recuperating from leg by-pass surgery.*

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

"O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair" (stanzas 1-3)

413

Looking forward to the First Sunday in Lent

February 10, 2008

Hymns: 414, 413, 416, 537, 417

Genesis 3:1-21: *In this first temptation, and first sin, we see the importance of God's Word. God's Word was spoken to Adam when God gave him freedom to enjoy all that was in the Garden of Eden. To eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was not good for it was not given them by God. Man fell into sin when he turned away from that Word that gave Him life.*

Romans 5:12-19: *In this wonderful epistle of encouragement, St. Paul teaches that Jesus is the Second Adam who, by His faithful and obedient suffering unto death, did what Adam failed to do. He trusted in the Father for us. He died in our place. He fulfilled the whole will and Law of God for us. It is called the "blessed exchange" that just as the disobedience of Adam brought sin and death "to the many" so the obedience of Christ brings righteousness, life, and salvation "to the many" through faith in Him.*

Matthew 4:1-11: *Man fell into sin when he turned away from that Word that gave Him life. The season of Lent is a time to return to our Baptism in which our "Old Adam" is drowned in repentance and the "New Man" is made alive through the Word of our Savior. Jesus used God's Word to defeat Satan's attacks. God's Word is our defense too. We especially need to rely on God's promises of forgiveness through Christ. Jesus' ministry began with His temptation in the wilderness, not simply to give us an example of how we can overcome temptations, nor to show Jesus as our coach, who says, "See, I did it, so can you!" Rather, it is to show Jesus as the faithful Man for us, our Savior, who says, "See, I did it for you!" This is why He is our faithful high priest from whom we can receive grace to help us in every time of need.*