



THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer
Epiphany | January 4-10, 2026

*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.*

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ⁺ everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE OUR FATHER

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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR 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.

5 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—Acts 2:38–39

Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

When you were baptized (whether that was a long, long time ago, or relatively recently), the triune name of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was joined to water, and through it, you were made a child of God. Whenever God's name is attached to something, that thing is empowered with all the holiness of God: Baptism, Absolution, the Gospel, Holy Communion—the Divine Liturgy as a whole. God's name is holy because it's His name; we can't make it any more or less so. However, we pray in this petition that God would strengthen us to keep His name holy among us also. That means using rightly the things to which God has attached His name. So when God's Word is taught in its truth and purity, when we hear it gladly and give thanks for His gifts, when we turn away from temptation and live according to God's good and gracious will—these are the ways that we keep God's name holy among us. Likewise, when we daily remember our baptism, confess our sins and receive the holy absolution, come regularly to hear the Gospel proclaimed, and receive the Eucharist often, God's name is kept holy among us. We pray in this petition that God in His mercy and grace would help us to do these things. On the other hand, when we despise those things, God's name is profaned. When the Word of God is taught falsely and when we willingly listen to false doctrine, when we neglect the remembrance of our Baptism and the regular reception of the Means of Grace, when we use the freedom that we have in Christ to lead unholy lives—all of these things are a rejection of the holiness of God and the name He has placed on us in our Baptism. Indeed, they are a rejection of God Himself. We pray in this petition that God would protect us from this and preserve us in the one true faith.

CATECHISM: Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Third Grade +

Which is that word of God?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

First Grade +

Kindergarten +

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Third Grade +

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

Second Grade +

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE OCTAVE OF EPIPHANY

Read the *Feast/Saint/Commemoration* reading first. As time permits, continue with the *Daily Lectionary*.

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity (postponed): Jer. 31:31–34* / Gal. 4:1–7 / Lk. 2:33–40	
Monday	Vigil of the Epiphany: Rom. 3:19–26 / Matt. 2:19–23	Luke 3:10–14/Gen 1:1–31
Tuesday	The Epiphany of Our Lord: Is. 60:1–6 / Matt. 2:1–12	Luke 3:15–20/Gen. 2:1–25
Wednesday	Wed. after Epiphany: Is. 51:3–8 / Mk. 1:4–11	Mark 1:1–8/Gen. 4:1–26
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	Mark 1:9–11/Gen. 5:1–32
Friday	Fri. after Epiphany: Zech. 2:10–13 / Lk. 3:21–23a, 4:1a	Luke 3:21,22/Gen. 6:9–22
Saturday	<i>Feria</i> <i>Looking forward to Sunday:</i> Is. 42:1–9* / Rom. 12:1–6a* / Luke 2:42–52	Luke 3:23–38/Gen. 7:1–24

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

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:

LCMS District: Michigan District

Partner Church: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (IELP)

LCMS Missionaries: Jana Inglehart (Dominican Republic); Carol Halter (Hong Kong)

LCMS Education: Concordia University - Wisconsin

Sick & Recovering: Randy Hunt (Z), Marge Utley (F)

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PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK—Psalm 75

Throughout this year of Congregation at Prayer, we will be praying the Psalms in canonical order (i.e., the order in which they're found in the canon of Scripture). Each Sunday's bulletin will include a helpful handout for the Psalm of the week. Please locate the Psalm in either your hymnal or bible and join in praying these ancient hymn-prayers of the Church. If the Psalm is a particularly long one, you might consider splitting it up and praying it over multiple days.

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READ THE CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE READINGS (INSIDE COVER)

Read the Feast/ Saint/ Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.

8

PRAY THE COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of Thy glorious Godhead; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

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PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS (INSIDE COVER)

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SAY OR SING THE HYMN OF THE WEEK (LSB 406; *Martin Luther, 1483-1546*)

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” (sts: 1,3,5,7)

1. To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord,
To do His Father's pleasure;
Baptized by John, the Father's Word
Was given us to treasure.
This heav'ly washing now shall be
A cleansing from transgression
And by His blood and agony
Release from death's oppression.
A new life now awaits us.

3. These truths on Jordan's banks were shown
By mighty word and wonder.
The Father's voice from heav'n came down,
Which we do well to ponder:
“This man is My beloved Son,
In whom My heart has pleasure.
Him you must hear, and Him alone,
And trust in fullest measure
The word that He has spoken.”

5. To His disciples spoke the Lord,
“Go out to ev'ry nation,
And bring to them the living Word
And this My invitation:
Let ev'ryone abandon sin
And come in true contrition
To be baptized and thereby win
Full pardon and remission
And heav'ly bliss inherit.”

7. All that the mortal eye beholds
Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds
The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
For here it sees the crimson flood
To all our ills bring healing;
The wonders of His precious blood
The love of God revealing,
Assuring His own pardon.