



# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer  
Oculi (Lent 3) | March 8-14, 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—Psalm 26:8

Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.

## CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

**What Hearers Owe Their Pastors (1):** It's worth being reminded often that the Office of the Holy Ministry is a wonderful gift instituted by Christ Himself and given to His Church, for it is through this pastoral office that Christ gives His Word and Sacrament to His people and so build them up in the faith. Because this is an office that Christ Himself instituted and because it is through it that Christ has promised to deliver His gifts to His people, God is sure to include in His holy Word direction as to the honor and respect that is due this holy office. We hear in the explanation of the Third Commandment that we are not to despise preaching and God's Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it. That means also not despising the preacher, the one delivering that Word, but thanking God for Him, supporting Him, and eagerly desiring to learn and grow in the faith via this one God has placed in this office for you. See below the Scripture passages dealing with this truth as they are quoted in the Table of Duties (1 Cor. 9:14, Galatians 6:6-7, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

Ever since the time of the Reformation and the translation of the Holy Scriptures into the language of the people, there has been a temptation to think that pastors are superfluous, that as long as we have the Word of God that we can read and study in our homes, that that's good enough. To the contrary, God's Word makes clear that you cannot have the Church without pastors. And you cannot have Christians without the Church. From Romans 10: "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? ...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ." God sends pastors to His people when they are instructed, called, and ordained for this work of preaching the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise be to God for this wonderful gift!

### CATECHISM: Table of Duties

#### *What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors*

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:14)

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

A man reaps what he sows. (Galatians 6:6-7)

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor,

especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

For the Scripture says,

Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,"

and "The worker deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

First Grade +

Second Grade +

Third Grade +

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCULI

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

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	<b>Oculi:</b> Ex 8:16–24 / Eph 5:1–9 / Luke 11:14–28	
Monday	2 Kings 5:1–15b / Luke 4:23b–30	Luke 18:15-39 / Num 22:2-41
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:1–7 / Matthew 18:15–22	Luke 19:1-40 / Num 23:1-30
Wednesday	Exodus 20:12–24a / Matthew 15:1–20	Luke 20:1-21:4 / Num 24:1-13
Thursday	<b>St. Gregory the Great:</b> Sirach 47:8–10a, 11a; 24:1–2 / Matt 24:42–47	Luke 21:37-22:38 / Num 27:12-23
Friday	Numbers 20:2b–13 / John 4:5–42	Luke 22:39-71 / Deut 5:1-33
Saturday	Susanna 1:1–9, 15–17, 19–62 / John 8:1–11 <i>Looking forward to Sunday: Ex 16:2–21 / Gal 4:22—5:1a / John 6:1–15</i>	Luke 23:1-25 / Deut 8:1-20

## 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:** Kansas District

**Partner Church:** The Lutheran Church of Nigeria

**LCMS Missionaries:** The (Michael) Paul Family (Taiwan); Britt Odemba (Kenya)

**LCMS Education:** Homeschool Parents

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

**6****PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK— Psalm 84**

*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.*

**7****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**

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, look upon the prayers of Thy humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Thy majesty for our defense; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**9****PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS (INSIDE COVER)****10****SAY OR SING THE HYMN OF THE WEEK (LSB 708; Martin Schalling, 1532-1608)****“Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart” (st. 1)**

1. Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,  
    With tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share.  
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
    If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
    Thou art the portion I have sought;  
    Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.