

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 18, 2026

Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order

Invocation

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

Psalm 67

Verse of the Month

Psalm 1:5 “Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”

10 Commandments & Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Week

By All Your Saints in Warfare (LSB 517)

Reading from Holy Scripture

Members may choose...

- Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children's The Story Bible (CPH)
- Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB p. 299-304)

Looking forward to the Conversion of St. Paul

Monday: Acts 9:1–22

Tuesday: Galatians 1:11–24

Wednesday: Matthew 19:27–30

Thursday: God's Enemies Are Conquered by the Revelation of Grace in Christ
Christ brings about a great reversal in St. Paul. “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy” (Gal. 1:23). The enemy of the Gospel becomes its foremost preacher, and the last of the apostles becomes the first (Matt. 19:30). Paul is God's “chosen instrument ... to carry [His] name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15). The conversion of Paul is only a more dramatic example of what God does in revealing Christ to us. The bondage of our sin makes saving faith impossible. “I believe that I cannot ... believe” (Small Catechism, Third Article of the Creed). But even this is no obstacle for our Lord's grace in Christ and the Holy Spirit's power through the Gospel. Baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, and hearing the Word of Christ, our ears are opened and our spiritual blindness is lifted (Acts 9:17–19). It is dangerous to be a traitor to Christ's enemies — “I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name” (Acts 9:16) — but everything that is left behind is “rubbish” compared to “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:8) and the eternal life that we, with St. Paul, will at last inherit (Matt. 19:29).

Catechism for the Week: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Part IV

What does such baptizing with water signify? It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil

lusts. And also it shows that a new man should daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6: “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (LSB 517, stanza 12)

Praise for the light from heaven, And for the voice of awe; Praise for the glorious vision, The persecutor saw. O Lord, for Paul's conversion, We bless Your name today; Come shine within our darkness, And guide us on our way. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons, Betty Beierle, Arnie Oelkers, Carol Smith

Lord's Prayer

Morning Prayer

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 all evil, so 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, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. And I pray, 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, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord; and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts, which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Month

Of the Father's Love Begotten (LSB 384/TLH 98)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 155-167

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)