

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Septuagesima – February 1, 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 84

Verse of the Month

Psalm 1:6 For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

10 Commandments & Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Week

May God Bestow on Us His Grace (LSB 823/TLH 500)

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 Sexagesima

Monday: Isaiah 55:10-13

Tuesday: II Corinthians 11:19-12:9

Wednesday: Luke 8:4-15

Thursday: The Sower sows the Seed of His Word. (Lk 8:4-15) This Word is living and powerful (Heb 4:9-13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and his demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him the weak are strong. (2 Cor 11:19 - 12:9) He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is 55:10-13) but yields a hundredfold.

Catechism for the Week: Office of the Keys

*What is the Office of the Keys?** The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

*Where is this written?** This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: "The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples, and said to them, "Receive the Holy

Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:22-23)

*This question may not have been composed by Luther himself but reflects his teaching and was included in editions of the catechism during his lifetime.

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have sown Your precious Word among us by Your Son, Jesus Christ, and we beseech You by Your Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts so that we may hear that Word diligently, keep it in a good heart, and in patience bring forth fruit, that we may not pursue sin but subdue it by Your help, and in every persecution find certain comfort in Your grace and perpetual help. 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 command 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 command 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

I Walk in Danger All the Day (LSB 716 TLH 413)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 174-185

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)