

Congregation at Prayer February 12, 2017

In a dying world, God calls His people to choose life or death. Those who choose life will receive LIFE abundant and eternal by His grace. Those who choose death or reject life, will receive the wages of their sin: eternal DEATH. True life is found only in Jesus! [Deut 30:15-20; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Mt 5:21-37]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Matters of Life or death!

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)
Psalm 51:17 (ESV) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

<p>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.</p> <p>Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)</p>	1st Grade +
<p>What do you believe according to these words? I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.</p>	3rd Grade +

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard—Matthew 20:1-16
Tuesday	Jacob Settles in the Land of Goshen—Genesis 46:28—47:12
Wednesday	Joseph's Vow to Jacob, Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons—Gen. 47:27–48:21
Thurs	Jacob Blesses His Sons Before He Dies—Genesis 49:1 (2-27) 28—50:14
Friday	Joseph Continues to Show Mercy to His Brothers—Genesis 50:15-26
Weekend	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray for those who help lead us in worship: our Pastors, our Elders, our organists. Pray that God's people are actively engaged as they worship. Pray for those who serve in our military and for our chaplains as they proclaim the Gospel.

Monday: Pray for the unemployed and underemployed; pray for the homeless in our community; pray for the ministries of DayBreak and MorningStar in our community; pray for the ministry of Feed My Starving Children.

Tuesday: Pray for our CrossRoad Life Recovery ministry and its leaders. Pray that this important ministry would continue to expand among us and through us. Pray that it might impact other congregations and communities around the country.

Wed: Pray for the ministries of our congregation: Braille, CrossRoad Life Recovery, DayBreak, Operation Christmas Child, Quilters, Sunny Hill, Spiritual Vitamins. Pray that new ministries might be developed among us that will impact lives through our serving.

Thursday: Pray also for ministries in our community: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet Area Hospice, Lambs Fold, Living Alternatives, Stepping Stones, Trinity Services.

Friday: Pray for our communities and neighborhoods; for our words of witness and acts of mercy to our neighbors.

Saturday: Pray that people would see the need to come to worship this weekend. Pray that we would be a welcoming, non-judgmental community of faith for them as they come.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Lev. 19:1–2, 9–18

1 Cor. 3:10–23

Matt. 5:38–48