

Congregation at Prayer February 19, 2017

The Gospel isn't an excuse for licentious behavior. How we live our lives as Christians matters. In fact, when we use the Gospel as an excuse to sin, we confess that we really don't believe the Gospel. For at the heart of the Gospel is the Holy Spirit remaking us in the image of Jesus who loves perfectly as His Heavenly Father is perfect.

[Leviticus 19:1–2; 9–18; 1 Corinthians 3:10–23; Matt. 5:38–48]

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)
Acts 2:42 (ESV)42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers..

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 are prevented from gathering for worship: those who live in areas where persecution is strong; those who do not have a Christian church nearby; those who are homebound; those whose work keeps them away from worship.

Monday: Pray for the salvation and well-being of your neighbors; for our Lutheran schools, colleges, and seminaries; for those who serve as teachers, healthcare workers, police and firefighters; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for your personal life of faith: that you would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in your life and relationships, that your attitudes, your reactions, and your choices would reflect your faith in Christ.

Wed: Pray for the mission of our congregation: to bring people hope, healing and new life through Jesus Christ. Pray about practical ways for you personally to join Jesus in His mission.

Thursday: Pray for your pastors. Pray for protection for them from the attacks of the enemy. Pray for their influence for Christ in the congregation and in the community. Pray that they are able to finish strong and remain faithful to the end.

Friday: Pray for the ministry of Lutheran Church Charities: for their comfort dog ministry; for their Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT) that deploy when disasters happen here and around the country.

Saturday: Pray for the witness of you and your family to those God brings across your path. Pray for eyes to see the opportunities the Lord gives you to talk to others about Jesus or to serve them in His name.

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