

Prayer
Requests



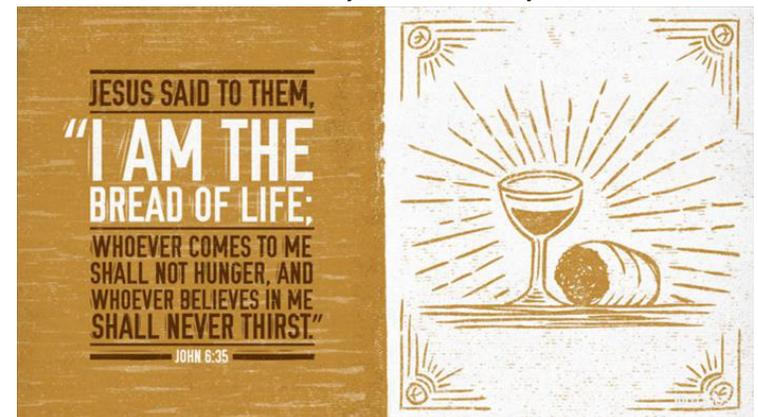
The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Second Week of Lent

February 22-March 1, 2026

Start Every Day

"In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen"

recite **APOSTLE'S CREED**

VERSE: John 6:35b *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

Read/Chant **Psalm 31**

CATECHISM—*Lord's Prayer—Sixth Petition*

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this temptation that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Sunday, February 22

- Read **Mark 2:18-28**
- *Secondary reading:* **Genesis 4:1-26**

BEDE: (Mark 2:19) From the time that the incarnation of our Savior was first promised to the patriarchs, it was always awaited by many upright souls with tears and mourning—until he came. From that time when, after his resurrection, he ascended to heaven, all the hope of the saints hangs upon his return. It was at the time when he was keeping company with humanity that his presence was to be celebrated. Then it would have been unfitting to weep and mourn. For like the bride, she had him with her bodily whom she loved spiritually. Therefore the bridegroom is Christ, the bride is the church, and the friends of the bridegroom and of the marriage are each and every one of his faithful companions. The time of his marriage is that time when, through the mystery of the incarnation, he is joining the holy

- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?
- 5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

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.

Luther's 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 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.

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

church to himself.¹⁰ Thus it was not by chance, but for the sake of a certain mystical meaning that he came to a marriage ceremony on earth in the customary fleshly way, since he descended from heaven to earth in order to wed the church to himself in spiritual love. His nuptial chamber was the womb of his virgin mother. There God was conjoined with human nature. From there he came forth like a bridegroom to join the church to himself. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS 1.14.¹

Monday, February 23

- Read **Mark 3:1-19**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 6:1-7:5*

AUGUSTINE: (Mark 3:11) Both the devils and the faithful confessed Christ. "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God," said Peter. "We know who thou art. Thou art the Son of God,"⁴ said the devils. I hear a similar confession, but I do not find a similar charity. In one there is love, in another fear. He is lovely to those who are sons. He is terrible to those who are not sons. ON THE PSALMS 50.2.²

Tuesday, February 24

¹ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Read **Mark 3:20-35**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 7:6-8:12*

GREGORY NAZIANZEN: (Mark 3:28) He is the subject, not the object, of hallowing, apportioning, participating, filling, sustaining. We share in him; he shares in nothing.¹⁵ He is our inheritance, he is glorified, counted together with Father and Son. He is a dire warning to us, the “finger of God.” The Spirit is, like God, a “fire.”¹⁷ This means that the Holy Spirit is of the same essential nature as the Father. The Spirit is the very One who created us and creates us anew through baptism and resurrection. The Spirit knows all things,¹⁹ teaches all things, moves where and when and as strongly as he wills.²¹ He leads, speaks,²³ sends, and separates those who are vexed and tempted. He reveals,²⁵ illumines, gives life, or better said, he is himself light and life.²⁷ He makes us his temple, he sanctifies,²⁹ he makes us complete. He both goes before baptism and follows after it.³¹ All that the Godhead actively performs, the Spirit performs. ORATION 31, ON THE HOLY SPIRIT 29.³

Wednesday, February 25

- Read **Mark 4:1-20**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 8:13-9:17*

³ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

adversary, from the allure of honeyed words, from blasphemy and from adultery. Do not bear false witness or speak with a double tongue. DEMONSTRATION 4.17–19.⁷

Sunday, March 1

- Read **Mark 6:1-13**
- *Second Reading: Genesis 16:1-17:22*

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for First Sunday in Lent*

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD’S PRAYER**

Luther’s Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this

⁷ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

said to Martha, "If you believe, your brother shall rise." Martha said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe."²² And he raised him after four days.... So let us draw near then, my beloved, to faith, since its powers are so many. For faith raised up [Enoch] to the heavens and conquered the deluge.²⁴ Faith causes the barren to sprout forth. It delivers from the sword.²⁶ It raises up from the pit. It enriches the poor.²⁸ It releases the captives. It delivers the persecuted. It brings down the fire.³⁰ It divides the sea. It cleaves the rock, and gives to the thirsty water to drink.³² It satisfies the hungry. It raises the dead, and brings them up from Sheol.³⁴ It stills the billows. It heals the sick.³⁶ It conquers hosts. It overthrows walls.³⁸ It stops the mouths of lions, and quenches the flame of fire.⁴⁰ It humiliates the proud, and brings the humble to honor. All these mighty works are wrought by faith. Now this is faith; when one believes in God the Lord of all, Who made the heavens and the earth and the seas and all that is in them. He made Adam in his image. He gave the law to Moses. He sent his Spirit upon the prophets. Moreover he sent his Christ into the world, that we should believe in the resurrection of the dead; and should also trust in the efficacy of our baptism. This is the faith of the church of God. So distance yourselves from all divinations and sorceries and Chaldean arts and magic, and superficial prayers and rites and moons and seasons, from fornication and lewd music, from vain doctrines which are instruments of the

CHRYSOSTOM: (Mark 4:4) As the sower fairly and indiscriminately disperses seed broadly over all his field, so does God offer gifts to all, making no distinction between rich and poor, wise and foolish, lazy or diligent, brave or cowardly. He addresses everyone, fulfilling his part, although knowing the results beforehand.... Why then, tell me, was so much of the seed lost? Not through the sower, but through the ground that received it—meaning the soul that did not listen.... Even though more seed would be lost than survive, the disciples were not to lose heart. For it is the way of the Lord never to stop sowing the seed, even when he knows beforehand that some of it will not respond. But how can it be reasonable, one asks, to sow among the thorns, or on the rock, or alongside the road? Maybe it is not reasonable insofar as it pertains only to seeds and earth, for the bare rock is not likely to turn into tillable soil, and the roadside will remain roadside and the thorns, thorns. But in the case of free wills and their reasonable instruction, this kind of sowing is praiseworthy. For the rocky soul can in time turn into rich soil. Among souls, the wayside may come no longer to be trampled by all that pass, and may become a fertile field. The thorns may be destroyed and the seed enjoy full growth. For had this not been impossible, this sower would not have sown. And even if no change whatever occurs in the soul, this is no fault of the sower, but of those who are unwilling to be changed. He has

done his part. THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW, HOMILY 44.5.1.⁴

Thursday, February 26

- Read **Mark 4:21-41**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Genesis 11:27-12:20**

ORIGEN: (Mark 4:38) For as many as are in the little ship of faith are sailing with the Lord; as many as are in the bark of holy church will voyage with the Lord across this wave-tossed life; though the Lord himself may sleep in holy quiet, he is but watching your patience and endurance: looking forward to the repentance, and to the conversion of those who have sinned. Come then to him eagerly, instant in prayer. FRAGMENTS ON MATTHEW 3.3.⁵

Friday, February 27

- Read **Mark 5:1-20**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Genesis 13:1-18**

PRUDENTIUS: (Mark 5:20)

Behold, a legion hurls headlong the swine
Of Gerasenes, and once enchained in tombs,
It loudly grunts with pain. From lips possessed

⁴ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁵ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

It had cried out: "O Jesus, Son of God,
Offspring of David's royal line, we know
Who you are and why you have come, what
power

Expels us, at your coming filled with dread."
Has not this voice, Judea, reached your ears?
True, but it has not pierced your darkened mind
And, driven back, has from the threshold fled.
Now sets the evening sun, where he who
beholds

The rosy dawn beholds the Lord's advent.
The fervent gospel word
Has thawed the Scythian frosts and Hyrcanian
snows,

So that Rhodopeian Hebrus, freed from ice,
Flows from Caucasian cliffs, a gentler stream.
A HYMN ON THE TRINITY.⁶

Saturday, February 28

- Read **Mark 5:21-43**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Genesis 15:1-21**

APHRAHAT: (Mark 5:36) When the chief of the synagogue asked him about his daughter, Jesus said to him: "Only firmly believe and your daughter shall live." He believed and so his daughter lived and arose. Similarly when Lazarus died, our Lord

⁶ Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.