

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The Week of Sexagesima*

*February 4, 2024, through February 11, 2024*

**Patristic Quote for the Week** —CYRIL OF JERUSALEM (315-386AD): This faith which is given by the Spirit as a grace is not just doctrinal faith but a faith which empowers activities surpassing human nature, a faith which moves mountains.... For just as a grain of mustard seed is of little bulk but of explosive energy, taking a trifling space for its planting and then sending out great branches all around, so that when it is grown it can give shelter to the birds, so in like manner the faith present in one's soul achieves the greatest things by the most summary decision. For such a one places the thought of God before his mind and as enlightenment of faith permits it, beholds God. His mind also ranges through the world from end to end, and with the end of this age not yet come, beholds the judgment already, and the bestowal of the promised rewards.

CATECHETICAL LECTURE ON FAITH 5.11.<sup>1</sup>

**Life Thoughts--** God's Word does things, guaranteed (Isaiah 55:11)! That's because God Himself works in and through His Word, accomplishing His will. His work through the Word made flesh changes hearts. That is why Lutherans For Life bases everything upon that Word. When hearts and minds are changed, people change. People changed and motivated by the Word can influence and bring change to our society. *Almighty Father, bring forth fruit from the seeds You plant in and through us. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts--** Luke 8:5 – “And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot ...” Know any farmers like this? Who just throws their crop seed wherever? That's crazy! But God's ways are not our ways — He is generous beyond compare! He delights in giving. As we are more and more conformed to His image, may we also learn the joy of generosity and giving!

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## **Invocation**

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

## **Apostles' Creed**

**Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9**

**““My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me!”**

**Read or Chant Psalm 44**

**Catechism: Apostles' Creed—Third Article**

**What does this mean?** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

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<sup>1</sup> Bray, Gerald Lewis, ed. 1999. [1–2 Corinthians](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Feb. 4	<b>Epistle Lesson, Sexagesima—1 Corinthians 11:19-12:9</b>	Isaiah 55:10-13
Mon., Feb. 5	All things are possible with God—Mark 10:1-31	Exodus 14:1-31
Tues., Feb. 6	The son of man came not to be served—Mark 10:32-52	Exodus 15:1-21
Wed, Feb. 7	My house shall be called a house of prayer—Mark 11:1-33	Exodus 15:22-16:36
Thurs, Feb 8	The two great commandments—Mark 12:13-40	Exodus 17:1-16
Fri., Feb 9	The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me—Luke 4:14-44	Exodus 19:1-25
Sat., Feb 10	Man, your sins are forgiven—Luke 5:12-26	Exodus 20:1-23
Sun., Feb 11	Epistle Lesson, Quinquagesima Sunday—Luke 8:4-15	1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Pray the Collect for Sexagesima:**

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 and Petitions**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn of the Week**

**May God Bestow on Us His Grace**

**LSB 824**

1 May God bestow on us His grace,  
 With blessings rich provide us;  
 And may the brightness of His face  
 To life eternal guide us,  
 That we His saving health may know,  
 His gracious will and pleasure,  
 And also to the nations show  
 Christ's riches without measure  
 And unto God convert them.

2 Thine over all shall be the praise  
 And thanks of ev'ry nation;  
 And all the world with joy shall raise  
 The voice of exultation.  
 For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.  
 Text: Public domain

Nor suffer sin to flourish;  
 Thy people's pasture is Thy Word  
 Their souls to feed and nourish,  
 In righteous paths to keep them.

D 3 O let the people praise Thy worth,  
 In all good works increasing;  
 The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,  
 Thy Word is rich in blessing.  
 May God the Father, God the Son,  
 And God the Spirit bless us!  
 Let all the world praise Him alone,  
 Let solemn awe possess us.  
 Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"

<b>Looking forward to Quinquagesima Sunday</b>	<b>February 11, 2024</b>
<b>Hymns: 744, 849, 588, 706</b>	
<b>1 Samuel 16:1-13</b>	
<b>1 Corinthians 13</b>	
<b>Luke 18:31-43</b>	