

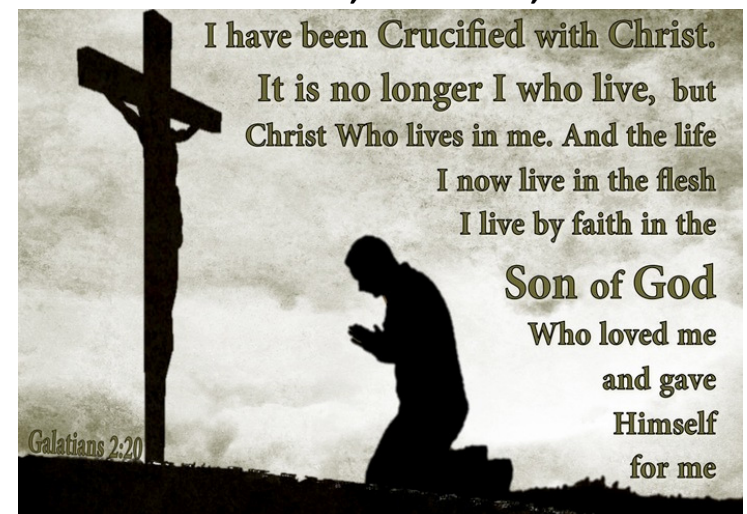
The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Third Week after Epiphany

January 18-January 25, 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: Galatians 2:20 ***"I have been crucified
with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ
who lives in me. And the life I now live in the***

flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Read/Chant Psalm 27

CATECHISM—Lord’s Prayer—First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God’s name kept holy? God’s name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God’s Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect from this, heavenly Father!

Sunday, January 25

- Read **Romans 14:1-23**
- *Secondary reading:* **Zechariah 1:1-21**

AUGUSTINE: (Romans 14:4) Paul says this so that, when something might be done with either good or bad motives, we should leave the judgment to God and not presume to judge the heart of someone else, which we do not see. But when it comes to things which obviously could not have been done with good and innocent intentions, it is not wrong if we pass judgment. So in the matter of food, where it is not known what the motive in eating it

Prayer Requests



is, Paul does not want us to be judges, but God. But in the case of that abominable immorality where a man had taken his stepmother, Paul taught us to judge.³⁰ For that man could not possibly claim that he committed such a gross act of indecency with good intentions. So we must pass judgment on things which are obviously wrong. AUGUSTINE ON ROMANS 79.¹

Monday, January 26

- Read **Romans 15:1-13**
- *Secondary Reading: Zechariah 2:1-3:10*

CHRYSOSTOM: (Romans 15:4) These things were written so that we might not fall away, for we have many battles to fight, both inward and outward. But being comforted by the Scriptures we can exhibit patience, so that by living in patience we might dwell in hope. For these things produce one another—hope brings forth patience, and patience, hope. HOMILIES ON ROMANS 27.²

Tuesday, January 27

- Read **Romans 15:14-33**
- *Secondary Reading: Zechariah 4:1-5:11*

¹ Bray, Gerald, ed. 1998. [*Romans \(Revised\)*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² Bray, Gerald, ed. 1998. [*Romans \(Revised\)*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

AMBROSIASER: (Romans 15:14) These are words of encouragement. By praising them he is exhorting them to better understanding and behavior. For one who sees himself praised develops the works he has been given, so that the things which are said might be true. Therefore he did not say that they should teach one another but that they should exhort one another. Exhortation normally occurs when it becomes clear that something is undermining the mind or that it has grown slack. The rest is clear and needs no explanation.

COMMENTARY ON PAUL'S EPISTLES.³

Wednesday, January 28

- Read **Romans 16:17-27**
- *Secondary Reading: Zechariah 6:1-7:14*

CHRYSOSTOM: (Romans 16:17) Division is the subversion of the church. Turning things upside down like this is the devil's weapon. As long as the body is united he has no way of getting in, but harm comes from division. And where does division come from? From doctrines which are contrary to the teaching of the apostles. HOMILIES ON ROMANS 32.⁴

³ Bray, Gerald, ed. 1998. [*Romans \(Revised\)*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁴ Bray, Gerald, ed. 1998. [*Romans \(Revised\)*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- 3 Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
Text: Public domain

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.

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Thursday, January 29

- Read **2 Timothy 1:1-18**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Zechariah 8:1-23**

CHRYSOSTOM: (2 Timothy 1:6) For it requires much zeal to stir up the gift of God. As fire requires fuel, so grace requires our alacrity, that it may be ever fervent.... For it is in our power to kindle or extinguish this grace.... For by sloth and carelessness it is quenched, and by watchfulness and diligence it is kept alive. For it is in you indeed, but you must render it more vehement, that is, fill it with confidence, with joy and delight. Stand manfully. HOMILIES ON 2 TIMOTHY 1.⁵

Friday, January 30

- Read **2 Timothy 2:1-26**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Zechariah 9:1-17**

ORIGEN: (2 Timothy 2:19) Those who have been made one with and united with something know that with which they have been made one and have been united. Yet before such unity and participation, even if they objectively grasp something of the explanations given about a thing, they still do not know it.... For, in our view, the Lord has known those who are his because he has been made one with them and has given them a share of his own divinity and has taken them up, as the

⁵ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

language of the Gospel says, into his own hand, since those who have believed in the Savior are in the Father's hand. For this reason also, unless they fall from his hand—thereby removing themselves from the hand of God, they will not be snatched away, for no one snatches anyone from the Father's hand. COMMENTARY ON JOHN 19.22, 25.⁶

Saturday, January 31

- Read **2 Timothy 3:1-18**
- *Secondary Reading: Zechariah 10:1-11:3*

AUGUSTINE: (2 Timothy 3:2) There isn't anyone, after all, who doesn't love himself. But we have to look for the right sort of love and avoid the wrong sort. You see, anyone who loves himself by leaving God out of his life and leaves God out of his life by loving himself, doesn't even remain in himself but goes away from himself.... Listen to the apostle giving his support to this understanding of the matter. "In the last days," he says, "dangerous times will loom up." What are the dangerous times? "There will be people loving themselves." That's the core of the evil. So let's see if they remain in themselves by loving themselves; let's see, let's hear what comes next: "There will be people, he says, loving themselves, lovers of money." Where are you now, you that were busy

⁶ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

loving yourself? Obviously, you're outside. Are you, I'm asking you, are you money? Obviously, after loving yourself by neglecting God, by loving money you have even abandoned yourself. Sermons 330.3.⁷

Sunday, January 25

- Read **2 Timothy 4:1-18**
- *Second Reading: Zechariah 11:4-17*

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for Third Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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 night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You

⁷ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.