

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Second Week of Epiphany

January 15, 2023, through January 22, 2023

Patristic Quote for the Week —**CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (375-444)**: Wanting to draw Christ into the passion of vainglory, Satan did not say to him “eat” but “work a miracle.” This he did, not so that Christ would be helped, but, as I said, in order to draw him to a pretentious act. But Christ, knowing this, did not obey him. Later he would not comply with the Pharisees when they wanted to see a sign from him. For they did not approach him with an undoubting heart, as to God, but were tempting him as a man. Let this therefore be an unailing rule for the saints, not to show off before unbelievers upon any pretext of utility.²³ FRAGMENT 32.¹

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: Psalm 89:5

“Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!”

Psalm 60 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	67	51	54	65	143	86	122	110
Evening	46	85	28	125	81	6	141	66

Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that will all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Jan. 8	Tree of Life: Jesus Preaches the Kingdom of Heaven—Matthew 4:3-11	Ezekiel 37:15-28
Mon., Jan. 9	Paul’s Letter to Philemon—Philemon	Ezekiel 38:1-23
Tues., Jan. 10	Warning against False Teachers—1 Timothy 1:1-20	Ezekiel 39:1-10, 17-29
Wed, Jan. 11	Pray for All People—1 Timothy 2:1-3:7	Ezekiel 40:1-4, 43:1-12
Thurs, Jan. 12	Qualifications for Deacons—1 Timothy 3:8-16	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29
Fri., Jan. 13	A Good Servant of Christ Jesus—1 Timothy 4:1-16	Ezekiel 47:1-14, 2-23
Sat., Jan. 14	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany—2 Kings 5:1-15a	Joel 1:1-20
Sun., Jan. 15	Tree of Life: God’s Plan of Salvation Completed—Luke 23:26-46	Joel 2:1-17

¹ Manlio Simonetti, ed., [Matthew 1–13](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 59.

Pray the Collect for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany:

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.*

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 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