

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Third Week of Epiphany

January 22, 2023, through January 29, 2023

Patristic Quote for the Week —**BEDE** (673-735): Since we cannot live in this world without sin, the first hope we have of salvation is through confession, nor should anyone be proud enough to claim that he is righteous in God's sight. The next step is love, which John often commends to us in this letter, because love covers a multitude of sins. Each of these things encourages us to pray for our sins and to ask God's forgiveness when we do so. This is why John says that God is faithful and will forgive our sins, pointing to the reliability of his promise, for he who has taught us to pray for our sins and trespasses has also promised the Father's mercy and the forgiveness which flows from that. John also says that God is just, because he will rightly forgive anyone who truly confesses his sins. In this life God forgives the everyday, trivial sins of the elect, which we cannot avoid as long as we are here on earth, and after our death he cleanses us from all sin and brings us into that life in which no one wants or is able to sin. Now he forgives those who pray their greater temptations, so that they will not be overcome by them, and he forgives the least as well, so that they will not suffer any harm. But in the life to come he will cleanse us from every sin, so that there will no longer be any sign of wickedness in the eternal kingdom of the blessed. ON 1 JOHN.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: 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalm 61 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	110	62	13	96	116	85	61	103
Evening	66	73	36	132	26	25	138	139

Catechism: The Lord's Prayer—Introduction

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 us from this, heavenly Father!

¹ Gerald Bray, ed., [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 172–173.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Jan. 22	Tree of Life: God's Plan of Salvation Completed—Luke 23:26-46	Joel 2:1-17
Mon., Jan. 23	Instructions for the Church—1 Timothy 5:1-6:10	Joel 2:18-32
Tues., Jan. 24	Fight the Good Fight—1 Timothy 6:11-21	Joel 3:1-21
Wed, Jan. 25	Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You—2 Timothy 1:1-2:13	Zechariah 1:1-21
Thurs, Jan. 26	A Worker Approved by God—2 Timothy 2:14-3:9	Zechariah 2:1-3:10
Fri., Jan. 27	All Scripture is Breathed Out by God—2 Timothy 3:10-4:22	Zechariah 4:1-5:11
Sat., Jan. 28	The Shining Face of Moses—Exodus 34:29-35	Zechariah 6:1-7:14
Sun., Jan. 29	Tree of Life: Jesus Conquers Death—John 20:11-18	Zechariah 8:1-23

Pray the Collect for the 3^d 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.

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

Hymn of the Week

"When I Behold Jesus Christ"

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Looking forward to the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Hymns: 842, 788, 427, 845

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 20:11-18