

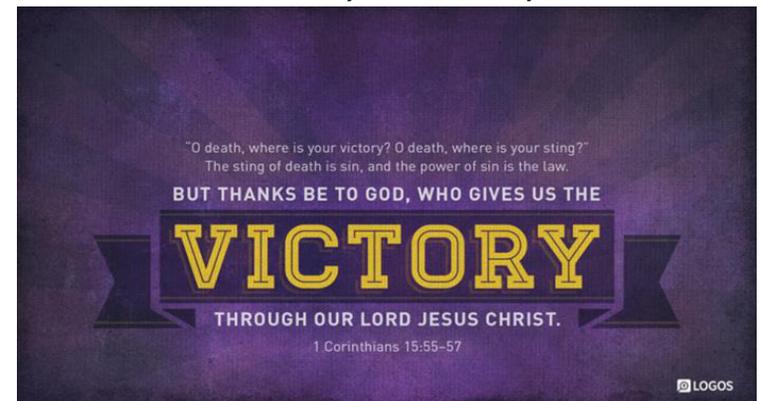
The Congregation at Prayer

# Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



**Third Week of Lent**

March 1-March 8, 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: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52** *"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."*

*Read/Chant Psalm 121*

**CATECHISM—Lord’s Prayer—Seventh Petition**

But deliver us from evil.

**What does this mean?** We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

**Sunday, March 1**

- Read **Mark 9:1-13**
- *Secondary reading:* **Genesis 27:30-28:22**

ORIGEN: Listen spiritually that it is not said simply, “he was transfigured,” but with a certain necessary addition, which Matthew and Mark have recorded; for, according to both, “he was transfigured before them” [in the presence of Peter, James and John]. The text suggests that it would be possible for Jesus to be transfigured before some of his disciples, and not before others. But if you wish to see the transfiguration of Jesus as seen by those who went up into the lofty mountain apart from the others, view with me the Jesus in the Gospels. Remember that Jesus was more literally apprehended by those below “according to the flesh”<sup>11</sup>—by those who did not go up to the lofty mountain of wisdom, who did not go up through words and deeds that are uplifting. But there were others by whom he became known no longer after the flesh, but in his divinity. To this all the Gospels attest. He was beheld in the form of God according

to their spiritual knowledge. It was before these who ascended and in their presence that Jesus was transfigured, not to those who remained below. COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW 12.37.<sup>1</sup>

### **Monday, March 2**

- Read **Mark 9:14-32**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 29:1-30*

AUGUSTINE: Where faith fails, prayer perishes. For who prays for that in which he does not believe?... So then in order that we may pray, let us believe, and let us pray that this same faith by which we pray may not falter. SERMONS ON NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS 65.1.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, March 3**

- Read **Mark 9:33-50**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 35:1-29*

AUGUSTINE: Some who are intent on severe disciplinary principles which admonish us to rebuke the restless, not to give what is holy to dogs, to consider a despiser of the church as a heathen, to cut off from the unified structure of the body the member which causes scandal,<sup>9</sup> so disturb the

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<sup>1</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>2</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

peace of the church that they try to separate the wheat from the chaff before the proper time. Blinded by this error, they are themselves separated instead from the unity of Christ. FAITH AND WORKS 4.6.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, March 4**

- Read **Mark 10:1-12**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Genesis 37:1-36**

TERTULLIAN: Where are we to find language adequately to express the happiness of that marriage which the church cements, the oblation confirms, the benediction signs and seals, the angels celebrate, and the Father holds as approved? For all around the earth young people do not rightly and lawfully wed without their parents' consent. What kind of yoke is that of two believers who share one hope, one desire, one discipline, one service?<sup>6</sup> They enjoy kinship in spirit and in flesh. They are mutual servants with no discrepancy of interests. Truly they are "two in one flesh." Where the flesh is one, the spirit is one as well. Together they pray, together bow down, together perform their fasts, mutually teaching, mutually entreating, mutually upholding. In the church of God they hold an equal place.<sup>8</sup> They stand equally at the banquet of God, equally in

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

- 4 And so we come, O God, today  
And all our woes before You lay;  
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,  
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.
- 5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;  
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.
- 6 So we with all our hearts each day  
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to Your Word,  
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511-69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
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### **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.

### **615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need**

- 1 When in the hour of deepest need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
No help or counsel yet have brought,
- 2 Then is our comfort this alone  
That we may meet before Your throne;  
To You, O faithful God, we cry  
For rescue in our misery.
- 3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed  
Your children's cries in time of need  
Through Him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our advocate.

crises, equally facing persecutions, and equally in refreshments. Neither hides anything from the other. Neither neglects the other. Neither is troublesome to the other. TO HIS WIFE 2.8.<sup>4</sup>

### **Thursday, March 5**

- Read **Mark 10:13-31**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 39:1-23*

JEROME: This is why those who are rich find it hard to enter the kingdom of heaven. For it is a kingdom which desires for its citizens a soul that soars aloft free from all ties and hindrances. "Go your way," the Lord said, "and sell" not a part of your substance but "all that you have, and give to the poor";<sup>46</sup> not to your friends or kinsfolk or relatives, nor to your wife or to your children.... When once you have put your hand to the plough, you must not look back. When once you stand on the housetop, you must think no more of your clothes within. To escape your Egyptian mistress,<sup>48</sup> you must abandon the cloak that belongs to this world. Even Elijah, in his quick translation to heaven could not take his mantle with him, but left in the world the garments of the world. LETTER 118, TO JULIAN.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>5</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian

### **Friday, March 6**

- Read **Mark 10:32-52**
- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 40:1-23*

CHRYSOSTOM: They were expecting him to enter into [the kingdom], but not to go to the cross and death. Even though they had heard it ten thousand times, they could not clearly understand. Since they had not gotten a clear and certain knowledge of his teachings, they thought that he was going to this visible kingdom and would rule in Jerusalem. So the sons of Zebedee caught up with him on the road. They thought they had found the opportune moment. They put their request to him. They had broken away from the throng of the disciples and, just as if the whole situation had turned out exactly as they wanted, they asked about the privilege of the first seats and about being first among the others. They asked for this because they assumed that everything was finished and the whole business was over and done with. They made their request because they thought that now was the time for crowns and rewards. ON THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE NATURE OF GOD 8.31.<sup>6</sup>

### **Saturday, March 7**

- Read **Mark 11:1-19**

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Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>6</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- *Secondary Reading: Genesis 41:1-27*

BEDE: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your king will come to you, gentle, and sitting upon a donkey, and its foal, the offspring of a beast of burden." The daughter of Zion is the church of the faithful, a figure of the heavenly Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all, of which there then existed a sizeable group among the people of Israel.<sup>5</sup> They had a king who was gentle, for it was not God's pleasure to give an earthly kingdom to the powerful, but a heavenly kingdom to the gentle. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS 2.3.<sup>7</sup>

### **Sunday, March 1**

- Read **Mark 11:20-33**
- *Second Reading: Genesis 41:28-57*

### **End Every Day**

#### ***Pray the Collect for Second Sunday in Lent***

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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***

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