

The Congregation at Prayer

New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian, Indiana

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the week of Sexagesima

Beginning February 7, 2021

*Theme: "Scripture Alone"**

(Congregation speaks non-italic boldface text)

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed:* I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

***Verse:* Isaiah 1:18 (ESV): "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."**

Psalm: 107:1-16

The Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys**

What is Confession? Confession has two parts. first, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.	<i>Kindergarten +</i>
What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.	<i>First Grade +</i>
Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."	<i>Second Grade +</i>
What do you believe according to these words? I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.	<i>Third Grade +</i>

Readings for the week of Sexagesima

Day	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Sexagesima — <i>The Parable of the Sower and the Seed</i> —Luke 8:4-15	
Monday	<i>Jesus Forgives the Paralytic</i> —Matthew 9:1-13	2 Corinthians 4:1-15
Tuesday	<i>Jesus Sends Out the Twelve</i> —Matthew 9:35—10:20, 40	2 Timothy 4:1-5
Wednesday	<i>Holy Absolution for the Erring Brother</i> —Matthew 18:14-22	Romans 10:8-17
Thursday	<i>The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant</i> —Matthew 18:21-35	1 John 1:5-10
Friday	<i>Paul Addresses Ephesian Pastors</i> —Acts 20:26-32	Galatians 6:1-5 1
Saturday	<i>Strengthen the Weak Hands</i> —Isaiah 35:3-7	Corinthians 13:1-13

Prayers: *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.*****

Confession and the Office of the Keys: Heavenly Father, thank You for calling ministers of Christ to deal with us by Your divine command. Grant that these ministers may be faithful in their calling to exclude the unrepentant and absolve the repentant. Grant repentance to the unrepentant and strengthen your people so that they would not fall into willful, unrepentant sin. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, **Amen.**

The following: Karan Shell, Timothy and Greta Siebert; Laxman and Rajni Singh; Randal and LeeAnn Siples; Nancy Small; Graham and Katie Smith; Mark and Donna Smith; Sharon Snow; Michael and Rachel Sponseller and Shawna, Makayla, and Emily Edmiston.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

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.****

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.****

The Hymn of the Week: “‘As Surely as I Live,’ God Said” (stanzas 5-8) *LSB 614*

Looking forward to Quinquagesima	February 14, 2021
Readings:	<i>1 Samuel 16:1–13 or Isaiah 35:3–7</i> <i>1 Corinthians 13:1–13</i> <i>Luke 18:31–43</i>
Theme:	“Faith Alone”*
Lectionary Summary:	“The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31–43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him ‘Son of David.’ Indeed, Jesus is the Lord’s anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1–13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1–13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3–7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.”*

“The Congregation at Prayer” has been adapted from the model provided by Peter Bender, *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation* 2nd Edition (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2011), 21-22 and the September 1, 2019 version at peacesussex.org/downloads (accessed 9/17/2019) as well as Peter Bender’s Master Schedule for 2020-2021 academic year found at www.lutherancatechesis.org/resource/ (last accessed 02/03/2021).

*Themes and lectionary summary provided by www.lcms.org/worship/lectionary-summaries.

**Catechism format adapted from the Lutheran Catechesis Learn-By-Heart Edition of Luther’s Small Catechism (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 1998). Translation of Luther’s Small Catechism: *Luther’s Small Catechism* © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. www.cph.org.

***Apostles’ Creed and Collect of the Day provided by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.