

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following Septuagesima
(Feb. 13th – Feb. 19th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

God the Holy Spirit – The Lord of Life

This Week's Catechetical Theme: God the Holy Spirit – The Lord of Life

In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed we confess "The holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints." These are not two different things. We're not saying we believe in the holy Christian Church and the Communion of Saints. We're saying, in fact, that we believe in the holy Christian Church, which is the Communion of Saints. What this means is that the Church—the holy Christian Church—is made up of all true believers from all time and all places! It's a far larger group than those we see on Sunday morning. This is the topic of this week's devotional material. God bless your time in His Word!

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: 3rd Article of the Creed

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Laborers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16		Psalm 19
Monday	The Church Is One 1 Corinthians 12:12-26	Proverbs 3:27-35	Psalm 20
Tuesday	Members of the Household of God Ephesians 2:19-22	1 Peter 2:11-25	Psalm 21
Wednesday	The Valley of Dry Bones Ezekiel 37:1-14	1 Peter 3:1-7	Psalm 22
Thursday	The Church Is Holy 1 Peter 2:9-12	1 Peter 3:8-17	Psalm 23
Friday	Avoid False Teachers Romans 16:17-18	1 Peter 3:17-4:6	Psalm 24

Saturday	Isaiah 55:10-13	Hebrews 4:9-13	Psalms 25
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Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon – Fri:** For each day's reading answer the following questions: 1) What does the passage teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit? 2) What does the passage teach us about the Church? 3) What does the passage teach us about humanity? 4) What does the passage teach us about the life of the baptized? 5) What gifts of God does the passage reveal? 6) What sin does the passage reveal? 7) What Good News does the passage reveal? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia, Trinity Lutheran Church-Hoffman. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Linda Nehrt (Eddie & Verdell Hermsmeyer's niece), Barb Mueller, Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Elizabeth Boldt (niece of Susan Kleiboeker), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Elbert Brink, Eddie Hermsmeyer, Glenn Knolhoff. **Those in Need of Healing:** Clare Jones (granddaughter of Mike & Opal Jones). **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Kathy Bookstaver (friend of Judy Kleiboeker), Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Norman Kleiboeker (2/14), Brian Edwards (2/17), Norma Rueter (2/18), Jill Schilling, Lynn Michael (2/19).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: Salvation Unto Us Has Come (LSB 555)