

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following
The Transfiguration of Our Lord (January 29th – February 4th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

Keys Administered: Public and Private

This Week's Catechetical Theme: Keys Administered: Public and Private

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive and retain sins. And while the office is carried out most visibly through the Office of the Public Ministry—that is, through the Pastor—the keys do not belong to the pastor himself; they belong to the Church. It is clear that the pastor exercises the office of the keys when he speaks Absolution, be it publicly or privately, through the sermon as he preaches Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, through the administration of the Lord's Supper by which Jesus forgives sins, and whenever he comforts repentant sinners with the forgiveness of sins. But when are the keys carried out by the rest of the Church—the people—and where does this take place? To whom do you have the authority to speak the forgiveness of sins? This is the topic of this week's devotional material.

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: *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.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Transfiguration Matthew 17:1-9		Psalm 40
Monday	Pastors & Teachers Ephesians 4:11-12	Exodus 14	Psalm 41
Tuesday	How Beautiful Are the Feet Romans 10:14-15	Exodus 15	Psalm 42
Wednesday	Binding & Loosing Matthew 16:13-19	Exodus 16	Psalm 43
Thursday	Stewards of the Mysteries of God 1 Corinthians 4:1-2	Exodus 17	Psalm 44

Friday	Forgiving One Another Ephesians 4:25-32	Exodus 18	Psalm 45
Saturday	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5	Psalm 46

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** Notice that there is no comma between pastors and teachers (ESV). How does this inform us regarding the task of the pastor? How does verse 12 describe the pastoral task? **Tues:** According to this passage, how will a person believe? And how will a person hear the Word? And how do we know who is to preach? And what is a preacher to preach? **Wed** What does Jesus give to Peter? What is Peter to do? **Thurs:** Here Paul refers to those in the apostolic office, the duties of which continue on today in the Pastoral Office. How are we to think of our pastors? What does it mean to be a steward? Of what are pastors stewards (note: in Latin, mystery = sacrament)? **Fri:** How does verse 25 teach us to speak with one another? What does verse 28 encourage us to do? When we have sinned against each other, what does verse 32 teach us to do? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Eph. 4:32)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Recovering from Surgery: Earl Schneider, Lynn Michael. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Alan Kleiboeker, Roger & Marilyn Sullens (father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken. **Baptismal Birthday:** Barb Mueller (2/3).

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

Hymn of the Week: O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair (LSB 413)