

# The Congregation at Prayer

## *A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

For the Second Week after Epiphany

January 17–23

**Memory Verse:** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

**From the Catechism:** The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

*What does this mean?*

God certainly gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?*

Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

### The Order for Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as the size of your family and their ages dictate. Reading and reciting out loud will aid in memorization.*

Theme of the Week: Marriage

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

**Psalm of the Week:** Psalm 66 *Pray the Psalm daily*

**Reading from Book of Family Prayer:** pp 117–128

**Readings for the Week of Epiphany 2** (Choose from the readings below)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading	Bible Story for the Family
Monday	Mark 5:21–43	Exodus 5:1–23	Mutiny and Rebellion
Tuesday	Mark 6:1–29	Exodus 6:1–13	The Water of Meribah & the Bronze Serpent
Wednesday	Mark 6:30–56	Exodus 11:1–10	Balaam
Thursday	Mark 7:1–30	Exodus 12:1–28	Moses' Last Days
Friday	Mark 8:10–9:1	Exodus 12:29–42	Israel Enters Canaan
Saturday	Mark 9:2–32	Exodus 13:1–22	The Fall of Jericho

**Collect for Epiphany 2:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that by Your grace You have instituted the holy estate of marriage, in which you keep us from unchastity and other offenses: We pray that You would send Your blessing upon every husband and wife, that they may not provoke each other to anger and strife, but leave peacefully together in love and godliness, receive Your gracious help in all temptations, and raise their children in accordance with Your will. Grant that we all might walk before You in purity and holiness, to put our trust in You, and lead such lives on earth that in the world to come we may have everlasting life, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, the one true God now and forever. Amen.

### **Daily Themes for Prayer:**

- Sunday**      *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us, for true and godly worship among us and for faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday**     *Pray for faith to live in the promise of your baptism, for your calling and daily work, for the unemployed, for the salvation and well-being of your neighbors, for our government and for peace.*
- Tuesday**    *Pray for deliverance from temptation, for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and the oppressed and those who struggle with recurring sins.*
- Wednesday** *Pray for marriage and the family, for single parents, for widows and widowers, for those who are confined to their beds or homes.*
- Thursday**    *Pray for children, for godly schools, especially Christ Lutheran School and our Sunday school, for Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Seminary.*
- Friday**       *Pray for the Church and her pastors, for missionaries, for fruitful and salutary use of Holy Communion.*
- Saturday**    *Pray for faithfulness to the end, for the dying, for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away, for a receptive heart for the worship and study of God's Word on the Lord's Day.*

In our Prayers this Week:

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer**

**Hymn of the Week:** "Our Father, by Whose Name" ELH 187

### **Looking Ahead:** The Readings for Septuagesima

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|-------------------------|---|
| Jeremiah 1:4-10         | <i>The Call of Jeremiah</i>                       |
| 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 | <i>Run as One Seeking the Prize</i>               |
| St. Matthew 20:1-16     | <i>The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard</i> |