

FAITH IN THE WORD

**For the week of Quinquagesima
February 11 – February 17, AD 2024**

The Office of the Keys is an astounding treasure which our Lord Jesus Christ has given to us Christians. It seems strange and even offensive to some that another person, who is a sinner just like everyone else, has been given the authority to forgive a person's sins with the full authority of God. But that is EXACTLY what Jesus said! "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven." Jesus instituted a unique office in His Church so that you can actually hear His forgiveness spoken into your ears and know that it is as valid and certain as if Jesus Himself were the one speaking that word. It's not magic. It's certainly not because your father confessor is holier. It is because Christ has granted that authority to His Church on earth. It is how the Holy Spirit, in the Christian Church, daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. Do not doubt. Believe the promise of Jesus and go to your pastor to confess those sins which you know and feel in your heart so that your faith may hear and rejoice in the forgiveness of Jesus which your pastor has been commanded to speak to you.

The Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

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.

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.

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." (John 20:22-23)

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.

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

INVOCATION

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

Psalm 130:3-5 – ³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. ⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

Psalm 84

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" (LSB 607)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctBQw5vOYuw>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF QUINQUAGESIMA

① SUNDAY	LUKE 18:31-43	
② MONDAY	LUKE 5:1-11	MATTHEW 38:18-20
③ TUESDAY	MATTHEW 9:1-13	2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15
④ WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW 9:35-10:20,40	2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5
⑤ THURSDAY	MATTHEW 18:14-22	ROMANS 10:8-17
⑥ FRIDAY	MATTHEW 18:21-35	1 JOHN 1:5-10
⑦ SATURDAY	1 SAMUEL 17:40-51	2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

Wednesday, Ash Wednesday – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY: *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

MONDAY: *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

TUESDAY: *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

WEDNESDAY: *For marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; parents who must rear their children alone; for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

THURSDAY: *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

FRIDAY: *For the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

SATURDAY: *For faithfulness to the end; the sick and dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Those members and friends of our congregation who are serving in the military (and their families): Emma Dammann (Army), Thomas Kun (Air Force), Brandon Lowery (Navy), Jesse Lowery (Navy), Ethan Sims (Air Force Reserves).
- Baptismal Birthdays: David Horn, Aimee Hendon (11); Kaye Hartfield (13); Adeline Ulmer (14)
- Birthdays: Kristin Hackbart (16); Dony Reaves (18)
- Robyn Steele as she applies for admission to the Deaconess program
- Thanksgiving for Rush's recovery from surgery
- Don Hendon, as he nears the end of his life, that he may be brought to saving faith in Christ
- For protection of mothers and their unborn children: Lyndsey Slade. (Psalm 139:13)
- Alissa Ulmer, Franklin Fischer, Finley Miller, Ethan Sims, Robert Ulmer, Dony Reaves, Willow



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar: *What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?*

First Sunday in Lent - Invocabit – February 18, 2024

Hymns: 500, 945, 656, 607, 562, 724, 424, 440

Readings: Genesis 3:1-21, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11

