

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of Sexagesima

February 4 – February 10, AD 2024

Confession is hard. To confess is to admit that you have done something that God has forbidden in His Word and that you deserve to be eternally punished for it. To confess is to acknowledge that you allowed your sinful flesh to rule over you and the evil of your heart to bear fruit. That is hard to do. But God commands and invites you to because He is eager and willing to forgive your sins. He wants to remove that terrible burden from your conscience and bestow upon you the forgiveness which Christ died to win for you. Confessing requires examination of your life - how you have conducted yourself in your various stations against the perfect measure of God's holy and perfect Law, the Ten Commandments. God has laid upon you holy obligations and duties that you are not simply free to do or not do as you so choose. They are commanded to you and if you don't do them you make God your enemy and cast yourself out of His kingdom. That is not God's desire for you or anyone else. So He graciously gives you a pastor, a father confessor, to whom you can confess your sins generally and specifically and who God has commanded to absolve all who repent of their sins. Individual confession is one of the purest and most intensely personal forms of pastoral care - the penitent sinner standing before Jesus asking for forgiveness and Jesus, through His called and ordained servant, absolving you of your sin. So take up this precious gift which Christ has died to obtain for you. Go to you pastor. Confess your sins and receive in faith the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

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 SEXAGESIMA

① SUNDAY	LUKE 8:4-15	
② MONDAY	LUKE 15:1-10	ISAIAH 1:16-18
③ TUESDAY	LUKE 15:11-24	JEREMIAH 31:31-34
④ WEDNESDAY	LUKE 15:25-32	PSALM 51
⑤ THURSDAY	2 SAMUEL 11:1-27	PSALM 32
⑥ FRIDAY	2 SAMUEL 12:1-25	JOHN 20:19-23
⑦ SATURDAY	1 SAMUEL 16:1-13	1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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.

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

- All those serving as missionaries around the world, especially Pastor Wildauer and Pastor Steele and their families.
- Baptismal Birthdays: Lyndsey Slade (6), Alexander Rose (8)
- Birthdays: Adeline Ulmer (4), Elizabeth Meyers (6), Aimee Hendon (7)
- Robyn Steele as she applies for admission to the Deaconess program.
- For protection of mothers and their unborn children: Lyndsey Slade. (Psalm 139:13)
- Rev. James Haupt, whose beloved wife, Nancy, was called to eternal glory last Saturday.
- Alissa Ulmer, Franklin Fischer, Finley Miller, Ethan Sims, Robert Ulmer, Dony Reaves, Rush, Tom.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys: *What is Confession? What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written? What do you believe according to these words?*

Quinquagesima – February 11, 2024

Hymns: 498, 849, 607, 620, 545, 865, 515

Readings: 1 Sam. 16:1-13; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 18:31-43

