

11 RECITE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM AND MEANING

What is private confession?

Private confession has two parts. First, we make a personal confession of sins to the pastor, and then we receive absolution, which means forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should confess that we are guilty of all sins, even those which are not known to us, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But in private confession, as before the pastor, we should confess only those sins which trouble us in heart and mind.

12 PRAYER BASED ON THE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM

Prayer based on Confession and Absolution the Second Question "What is Private Confession?" Lord Jesus Christ, I give You thanks that my sins are forgiven before Your Father in heaven. By the Holy Spirit, give me grace to trust in Your promises and so live in the freedom and peace that You have won for me in Your death and resurrection. Amen [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 313]

13 IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK - INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- ⇒ For Carol Halderson coping with dementia
- ⇒ For Buff Peterson coping with pulmonary functioning
- ⇒ For Janet Sisul being cared for
- ⇒ For Lisa Cash in caring for her parents, Daniel and Marion
- ⇒ For Karri Bjornstad's father, Birger Eklov, battling cancer.
- ⇒ For Emeron Christensen scheduled for hip replacement surgery

14 HYMN OF THE WEEK AND UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

Hail to the Lord's Anointed LBW 87: *stnz 1* Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free, To take away transgression And rule in equity.. *Stnz 4* Kings shall fall down before him, And gold and incense bring; All nations shall adore him, His praise all people sing. To him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend; His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.

For January 26, Third Sunday after the Epiphany: **Isaiah 9:1-4** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."; **Psalms 27:1-12** "The LORD is my Light and my salvation"; **1 Corinthians 1:10-18** "I appeal to you ... that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."; **Matthew 4:12-25** The calling of Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John



The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 19 through January 25

1 INVOCATION - MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 CONFESS THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord. He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended
into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father. He will come again to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. We give thanks to you,
heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ
your dear Son, that you have protected
us through the night from all danger and
harm. We ask you to preserve and keep
us, this day also, from all sin and evil,
that in all our thoughts, words and deeds
we may serve and please you. Into your
hands we commend our bodies and souls
and all that is ours. Let your holy angels
have charge of us, that the wicked one
have no power over us. Amen.

Evening. We give thanks to you,
heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ
your dear Son, that you have this day so
graciously protected us. We beg you to
forgive us all our sins and the wrong
which we have done. By your great
mercy defend us from all the perils and
dangers of this night. Into your hands we
commend our bodies and souls and all
that is ours. Let your holy angels have
charge of us, that the wicked one have
no power over us. Amen

5 AT MEAL TIME ASK BLESSING THEN AFTERWARDS RETURN THANKS

Blessing before meal

“The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand, and satisfy the needs of every living creature.” [Ps. 145:15-16]

Lord, God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks after meal

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. He gives food to all creatures. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. He is not impressed by the might of a horse, he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; but the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.” [Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9-11]

We thank you, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

6 PRAY THE PSALMS

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	19, 150	135, 145	123, 146	15; 147:1-12	36, 147:13-21	130, 148	56, 149
Evening	81, 113	97, 112	30, 86	48, 4	80, 27	32, 139	100, 63

7 RECITE THE VERSE OF THE WEEK: **John 1:29**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Theme of the Week: The Lamb of God Who Takes Away Sin

8 READ DAILY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

SUN

Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23; Ephesians 4:1-16; Mark 3:7-19

MON

Genesis 8:6-22; Hebrews 4:14--5:6; John 2:23--3:15

TUE

Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 5:7-14; John 3:16-21

WED

Genesis 9:18-29; Hebrews 6:1-12; John 3:22-26

THU

Genesis 11:1-9; Hebrews 6:13-20; John 4:1-15

FRI

Genesis 11:27--12:8; Hebrews 7:1-17; John 4:16-26

SAT

Genesis 12:9--13:1; Hebrews 7:18-28; John 4:27-42

9 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10 READ INTRODUCTION TO PORTION OF CATECHISM FOR THIS WEEK

Confession And Absolution the Second Question “What is Private Confession?” – Many Lutherans are surprised to learn that our Lutheran Confessions uphold the practice of private confession, that is, making a personal confession of sins to God before a Pastor. Unfortunately, a very helpful practice has fallen into disuse. But just as the prophet Nathan could audibly speak the word of God’s forgiveness to King David in 2 Samuel 12, so we too can hear the comforting words of God’s forgiveness spoken aloud by His appointed ambassadors today! Of course we hear this general word most every Sunday in the Divine Service spoken by the Pastor during the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness when we hear the Pastor declare, “As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This, of course, falls on the heels of our having confessed our sins to God. This is a tremendous word of promise and comfort. And yet, especially when heavily burdened in conscience, it may seem too general a word. Perhaps God forgives most others, but I am not sure He can forgive me? In Private Confession there is a Word of the Lord spoken to you alone at the moment. And with this Word, there is often further comfort and assurances from God’s Word that is shared. For three weeks we will consider aspects of Private Confession...