**The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer**A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the 6th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 16 through February 22

 **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** **The Apostles’ Creed**

 I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

 **3** **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** **Morning or Evening Prayer**

*Morning.* I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*Evening.* I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

 **5 Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks**

*Blessing before meal*

“The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” (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. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” (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**

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| GeneralWk 2 | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Morning | 19, 150 | 135, 145 | 123, 146 | 15; 147:1-12 | 116, 147:13-21 | 130, 148 | 56, 149 |
| Evening | 81, 113 | 97, 112 | 30, 86 | 48, 4 | 80, 27 | 32, 139 | 100, 63 |

 **7 Verse of the Week: Luke 6:23a**

Alleluia. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

 **8 Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Sunday** Isaiah 62:6-12; 1 John 2:3-11; John 8:12-19

**Monday** Isaiah 63:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-17; Mark 11:1-11

**Tuesday** Isaiah 63:7-14; 1 Timothy 1:18-2:15; Mark 11:12-26

**Wednesday** Isaiah 63:15-64:9; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; Mark 11:27-12:12

**Thursday** Isaiah 65:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-16; Mark 12:13-27

**Friday** Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Timothy 5:1-22; Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday** Isaiah 66:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:1-21; Mark 12:35-44

 **9 The Collect for the Week**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany** O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**10 Catechism Portion for the Week**

**The Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy kingdom come” –** When we read the account of our Lord Jesus before Pontius Pilate in John 18:33-40 we see that Pilate misunderstood the nature of Jesus’ kingdom and His rule as King. And yet still today as Christians we often misunderstand the nature and timing of our Lord’s rule. If in fact God has ushered in His kingdom through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, why do we still see so many problems in the world today? As Christians, we believe and confess that Christ’s present (but hidden) reign as King is being extended by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. It will be fully revealed when Christ returns in glory. And since we know that Christ will return to bring an end to the devil’s present work of unbelief, sin, and death, we know that relying on God’s grace and the work of His Holy Spirit, we are to believe and be led by God’s holy Word so that we can begin to live godly lives now here on earth.

**11 Portion of the Catechism and Luther’s Explanation**

**The Second Petition**

Thy kingdom come.

**What does this mean?**

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

**How does God’s kingdom come?**

God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

**12 Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism**

**Prayer based on The Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer -** Father in heaven, give us Your Holy Spirit so that we believe Your Holy Word and live as members of Your gracious kingdom here in time and finally, by Your mercy, be brought to live as partakers of Your everlasting reign, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen [from Luther’s Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 251]

**13 Intercessory Prayer**

* Heather Roll (breast cancer)
* Heather Wesner (Jessica Schoonover’s sister with breast and stomach cancer)
* Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain.
* For Jerrod Benrud (the son of Heide Fehr’s cousin from injuries he sustained falling off a deck.
* For Karla Reagle (Lee Fehr’s daughter) for a healthy pregnancy and delivery.

**14 Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday’s Lessons**

**394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise:** *stnz 1* Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise, Manifested by the star To the sages from afar, Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem: Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest. *stnz 2* Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest; Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine; Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest. *stnz 3* Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul; Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil’s might; Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill; Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest. *stnz 4* Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee; Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign; All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear; Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest. *stnz 5* Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word— Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou; That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest. Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Text: Public domain

**For February 23, 2025,** Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany: **Genesis 45:3-15** Joseph forgives his brothers.; **Psalm 103:1-13** “Bless the Lord, O my soul.”; **1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42** “What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.”.; **Luke 6:27-38** “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”