

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*  
**For the Week of Invocavit (The First Sunday in Lent)**  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Catechesis Notes for the Week—This is My body**—*In the Lord’s Supper Jesus gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink. The Sacrament of the Altar rests upon the Word of God. Jesus’ words give what they say. The power and benefits of the Sacrament are given through the Word. Take away the Word and there is no Sacrament. With the Word, there is a Sacrament, namely, “the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.” What role does faith play in the Sacrament? Faith receives what the Word says. Faith believes in what the Word gives. Faith rests upon the promises of God. The essence of the Sacrament, that is, “what it is,” is determined by the Word. This gives faith its certainty. We know we receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, because the Word says so. Faith knows no other certainty but the promises of the Gospel.*

**The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**Theme: Man Lives from the Word of God.**

**Invocation**

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

**Apostles’ Creed**

**John 6:35b**

**I am the bread of life.  
 He who comes to Me shall never hunger,  
 and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**



**Psalm 32 (antiphon: v. 7)—Pray the Psalm Daily**

*Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, move our hearts to know and confess our sins, that we might be refreshed and renewed by Your life-giving absolution, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—Where is this written? What is the benefit...? How can bodily eating...?**

<i>Where is this written?</i> The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:	Second Grade +
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: <b>“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”</b> In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, <b>“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”</b>	Kindergarten +
<i>What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?</i> These words, <b>“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,”</b> show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.	First Grade +
<i>How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?</i> Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: <b>“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”</b> These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”	Second Grade +

**Prayer for Faith in Jesus' Words in the Sacrament of the Altar:** O Lord Jesus, by Your words "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" You teach us to believe that in the Sacrament "forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words." We give thanks to You for the precious gift of Your body and blood. Forgive us for taking this gift for granted, for doubting Your promises, and for trusting in our own merits as we approach the altar. Give us firm faith in Your words that we might know with certainty that where there is forgiveness of sins in Your body and blood, that there is also life and salvation for us and for all who believe in Your promises; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer Before Receiving the Lord's Supper:** Lord God, heavenly Father, I come to the altar at Your invitation to receive the holy body and the precious blood of my Savior Jesus Christ. I confess to You all my sins. I am heartily sorry for them. For Jesus' sake, I forgive my enemies and all who have sinned against me. I believe that You give me the forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life and salvation through the body and blood of my Savior. Through the Lord's Supper strengthen my faith in Christ, increase my love for others, grant me faithfulness in my vocation, and give me the joyous hope and confidence of eternal life and salvation in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings for the week of Invocabit (the First Sunday in Lent)**

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Plagues—Exodus 8:1-4 (7-10) 13-25, 32; 9:1-4, 7-35; 10:3-6 (7-11) 20-29	John 10:1-6
Tuesday	<b>St. Matthias, Apostle: Acts 1:15-26</b>	<b>Matthew 11:25-30</b>
Wednesday	The Death of the Firstborn Is Announced—Exodus 11:1-10	John 10:7-15
Thursday	The Passover Is Instituted—Exodus 12:1-14	John 10:16-21
Friday	The Death of the Firstborn—Exodus 12:21-30	John 10:22-31
Saturday	Lent 2: Genesis 32:22-32	1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

**Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace**

Collect for Invocabit:

**O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for St. Matthias—Apostle: (Tuesday)

**Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)*

*Lord's Prayer and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism*

**Hymn of the Week**

**Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (st. 1-2 & 5)**

**LSB #440**

**Looking forward to the Week of Reminiscere (The Second Sunday in Lent)**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Hymns: 544, 615, 631, 424, 713, 625, 579, 708, 421**

**Genesis 32:22-32:** The wrestling of Jacob with the Lord is a paradigm for how every believer is in a paradoxical struggle with the Lord. He is our Savior, and yet we fight against Him. He allows us to experience tribulation, that our reliance in His grace might be strengthened. He does not let go of us, that we might learn through hard experience not to let go of Him.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-7:** The Gospel calls us to forsake all self-centered lust and be renewed in the mercy of God through which the Holy Spirit sanctifies and purifies us in the Christian life.

**Matthew 15:21-28:** Undeterred by the Lord's apparent silence and then His rebuke, the Canaanite woman cries out to Jesus for mercy because of her daughter's demonic affliction. She confesses Him to be the Lord, the Son of David. Though a Canaanite, Her faith is fixed upon the promise of the Gospel: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Her faith is great because it confesses her utter unworthiness and rests solely upon the Word of God. Even though the Lord Himself seems to be against her, the promise of the Gospel declares that it is not so. He is the Savior of all sinners who cling to His Word of salvation.