

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
for the week of Sexagesima  
February 12 to 18, 2012*

*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.*

## Invocation

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

## Apostles' Creed

### Verse: Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD,  
“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

### Psalm of the Week: Psalm 30

### The Catechism: The Office of the Keys

<p><i>What is the Office of the Keys?</i> 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.</p>	1st +
<p><i>Where is this written?</i> This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: <b>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."</b></p>	2nd +
<p><i>What do you believe according to these words ?</i> 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.</p>	3rd +

## Daily Readings

12-Feb Job 8:1-22; John 4:27-45  
13-Feb Job 9:1-35; John 4:46-54  
14-Feb Job 10:1-22; John 5:1-18  
15-Feb Job 11:1-20; John 5: 19-29  
16-Feb Job 12:1-6, 12-25; John 5:30-47  
17-Feb Job 13:1-12; John 6:1-21  
18-Feb (Martin Luther); Job 13: 13-28; John 6:22-40

## Collect for Sexagesima

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. Amen. Amen.

## Daily Themes for Prayer

**Sunday:** God's gifts to us through Word and Sacrament  
**Monday:** The promises of Holy Baptism; one's calling and daily work  
**Tuesday:** Deliverance against temptation and evil; strength and courage to confess the faith  
**Wednesday:** Homes, families, schools, country, and neighbor  
**Thursday:** Faithful reception of the Lord's Supper; fellowship and family around the world  
**Friday:** Faithful preaching of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world  
**Saturday:** Preparation for the Day of the Lord; the sick and the dying

*In Our Prayers at Grace — See Sunday Service Folder*

## Lord's Prayer

## Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

### Hymn of the Week: 614 "'As Surely as I live,' God Said" (st. 5 and 6)

<p><i>The words which absolution give Are his who died that we might live; The minister whom Christ has sent Is but his humble instrument.</i></p>	<p><i>When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands; He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of his blood receives.</i></p>
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**Looking forward to Quinquagesima - February 19, 2012**  
**Hymns:** 504, 685, 849, 732, 819  
**Holy Scripture:** 1 Sam. 16:1-13; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 18:31-43