



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942 | PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

(979) 242-3333 | holycrosswarda.com

God's Word for the Week

For the Sixth Week after Epiphany

February 16 - 22, AD 2025

For **Orders of Daily Prayer (Matins & Vespers)**, see *The Lutheran Hymnal* pp. 32-45, pg. 4 of *Portals of Prayer*, or the *Daily Prayer for Families and Individuals* tri-fold. An individual or family may choose to utilize part or all of what follows in their devotional life during the coming week. May God's Word richly bless us as we read and pray.

TIME IN THE SMALL CATECHISM: THE THIRD ARTICLE, EXPLANATION, PT. 2

What does this mean? In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK: I'm currently reading my way through a paper about Catechesis. This topic has always been important to me as your pastor, but it has also been a recurring struggle. How can we best encourage our youth to remain attentive *in* Confirmation and *after* they have been confirmed? What will it take to pique peoples' interest to *come to* and *participate in* Bible Class? Beyond that, in today's busy world, is it reasonable to hope that Christians would read scripture at home?

The paper suggested reorienting our focus on Catechesis (instruction). We tend to think of Catechesis as merely a sharing of knowledge. But that's not it. Catechesis is the sharing of the faith. The material of Confirmation isn't just another "school subject" to learn...but it's a conversation and an encounter with the Living God Who speaks, forgives, and gives eternal life by His Word. Conversations about eternal matters are less of an academic exercise and fit better into the same category as worship. No, talking about theology isn't a replacement for the Word and Sacraments that are delivered in worship...but consider these words from Luther in the Smalcald Articles: "The Gospel does not give us counsel and aid against sin in only one way. God is superabundantly generous in His grace: First, through the spoken Word, by which the forgiveness of sins is preached in the whole world [Luke 24:45-47]. This is the particular office of the Gospel. Second, through Baptism. Third, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar. Fourth, through the Power of the Keys. Also through **the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren**, 'Where two or three are gathered' (Matthew 18:20) and other such verses [especially Romans 1:12]."

Talking about—and just as importantly, putting into practice—the Christian faith is the means by which we enjoy our "daily bread," spiritually speaking. The big question is always going to be *HOW* do we do this or **WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?** A hunger and thirst for God's Word is certainly granted by God, but my prayer is that we would make the intentional effort to satisfy that desire with God's Word and not lean on our own understanding or the wisdom of this world. This will take place around the dinner table, when you pray with your family and in your conversation about the day's joys and struggles. It will occur when you experience tragedy and, rather than do what the rest of the world would advise, you stop, pray for God's protection and guidance, and respond in a way that is consistent with your faith in Christ. How will you know what to do, what to say, how to pray? By being in God's Word. After all, the more we're in God's Word, the more God's Word will be in us. And God has promised to bless His Word wherever it is read, heard, taught, learned, discussed. God grant us to love His Word!

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. *1 Corinthians 15:20*

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: 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.

PSALM FOR THE WEEK: *Psalms 1*

HYMN FOR THE WEEK: *Come Unto Me, Ye Weary*, TLH 276, LSB 684

UPCOMING LESSONS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS: *The following are taken from The Treasury of Daily Prayer. The readings form a continuous reading plan to read through the New Testament and nearly half of the Old Testament each year.*

Day	Daily Readings from <i>Treasury of Daily Prayer</i> , pg. 24ff.		
Sun	Job 12:1-25 <i>Job Replies</i>	John 5:30-47	<i>Witnesses to Jesus</i>
Mon	Job 13:1-12 <i>Job Continues</i>	John 6:1-21	<i>Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand</i>
Tues	Job 13:13-28 <i>Job Continues</i>	John 6:22-40	<i>I am the Bread of Life</i>
Wed	Job 14:1-22 <i>Job Continues</i>	John 6:41-59	<i>I am the Bread of Life</i>
Thurs	Job 15:1-35 <i>Eliphaz Accuses: Job Does Not Fear God</i>	John 6:60-71	<i>The Words of Eternal Life</i>
Fri	Job 16:1-22 <i>Job Replies: You're Miserable Comforters</i>	John 7:1-13	<i>Jesus at the Feast of Booths</i>
Sat	Job 17:1-16 <i>Job Continues</i>	John 7:14-31	<i>Can this be the Christ?</i>

The following Psalms are suggestions for daily prayer, taken from Treasury of Daily Prayer, pg. 1436.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	79-81	86-88	90-92	95-97	102-103	105	107
Evening	82-85	89	93-94	98-101	104	106	108-109

IN ADDITION TO THOSE ON OUR CONGREGATION'S PRAYER LIST, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

BIRTHDAYS: *Out of respect for the privacy of our members, the Birthdays and Anniversaries not available in the online version of God's Word for the Week.*

MISSIONARIES: Rev. Jonah Domenichelli, his wife, Renee, and their five children, serving the Lord in Germany. Pastor Domenichelli serves as a church planter in Germany, training German pastors to do the same; he also serves a congregation of expat and U.S. military members who are in the area.

THOSE FACING PERSECUTION: Christians in Mexico. The majority of the population in Mexico are Christian, but organized crime and its violence have long resulted in the persecution of Christians. In parts of Mexico, indigenous communities shun individuals who convert to the faith. Pray for our neighbors, that all would believe in Christ!

THOSE IN ECCLESIAL AUTHORITY: Rev. Nate Hill, Circuit Visitor; Rev. Michael Newman, Texas District President; Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synodical President

**What does this mean?
What is the Introit?**

As the church's liturgy developed over a few centuries, some parts of the service developed for purely theological reasons, but others that came into practice for more...*practical* reasons. The Introit was a practical addition. It's from the Latin word that means "to enter." Guess what happens during the Introit? That's right, the pastor *enters* the church—specifically the chancel. This part of the service should be a reminder to us of the Old Testament Temple and the priest's entrance into the Holy Place to offer prayers on behalf of the people. The church marked this significant moment in the service by incorporating the text of a Psalm. The Psalms, after all, are the hymnal and the prayer book of God's people. We set this time apart and sanctify it with God's Word!

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER: 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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER: 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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Agnus Day

THE LECTIONARY COMIC STRIP

ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES:

KFUO Radio
(www.kfuo.org)

The Word of the Lord
Endures Forever Podcast
(www.thewordendures.org)

Issues, Etc.
(Issuesetc.org)



© WETZSTEIN 19-02-13