



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



A CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

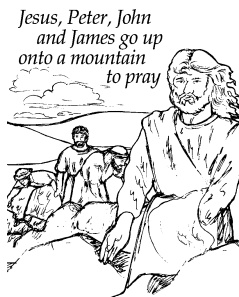
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

FEBRUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 20, 2010

COMMENTARY FOR THE WEEK

Today is two special days. On the church calendar it is Transfiguration, which is the day that commemorates our Lord's transfiguration, or glorification, on the Mount of Transfiguration before three of His disciples with the Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah present. Transfiguration is observed the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. Jesus did not stay on that mountain but came down and began His painful journey to another mountain, Mount Calvary, where He died for our sins. His death for us is the great sign of God's love for mankind. Today on the secular calendar is Valentine's Day, a day on which the world celebrates human love. Certainly human love is a great joy and blessing from God as St. John wrote, "Dear friends since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." (1 John 4:11-12). God's love for us transfigures and

transforms us into new people who now are able to love Him and others. So today it is fitting to celebrate both Transfiguration and Valentine's Day as days we remember God's love and act on that love. In a sense the Bible is God's valentine to us as it reminds us, from Genesis to Revelation, of God's love for us sinners revealed best through Jesus but also shown in many other ways. We live out that love in God's family of faith the church. Here we love, forgive, encourage, and strengthen one another. The fact that you and I have a loving, forgiving God and brothers and sisters in faith is a cause for celebration; not just today but everyday.



A SAMPLE FAMILY DEVOTION:

• Invocation

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

• Verse of the Week

Try to memorize by the end of the week.

• Daily Bible Story

Read together and talk about the story. Which character are you most like? Where is the Gospel?

• Apostles' Creed

• Prayers

Pray together the collect, and have a family member pray the daily thematic prayer and the prayers of the Church for the Week

MEMORIZING THE CATECHISM: CONFESSION

<i>What is Confession?</i> Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.	K +
<i>What sins should we confess?</i> Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.	2nd +
<i>Which are these?</i> Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?	3rd +

Reading the Psalms:

Perfect for personal morning devotions.

SUNDAY	117, 118 120, 121
MONDAY	119:1-24 119:25-48
TUESDAY	119:49-72 119:73-88
WEDNESDAY	119:89-112 119:113-136
THURSDAY	119:137-152 119:183-176
FRIDAY	122, 123 124
SATURDAY	125, 126 127

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases.

Psalm 103:1-3

Hymn of the Week:

“’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”, #135

A musician in the family can play the tune while the family sings together. Otherwise, the text is good devotional material.

Next Sunday's Readings: **First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes

Romans 10:8b-13

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Luke 4:1-13

The Temptation of Jesus

BIBLE STORIES FOR THE FAMILY AND CONGREGATION: TO BE READ DURING YOUR DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Monday	The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:1-28)
Tuesday	The Humbling of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:1-37)
Wednesday	<i>Ash Wednesday Services:</i> King Belshazzar and the Handwriting on the Wall (Daniel 5:1-30)
Thursday	Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:1-23)
Friday	Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts (Daniel 7:1-28)
Saturday	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

DAILY PRAYER READINGS: PERFECT FOR PERSONAL EVENING DEVOTIONS

Sunday	OT: Job 10:1-22	NT: John 5:1-18
Monday	Job 11:1-20	John 5:19-29
Tuesday	Job 12:1-6, 12-25	John 5:30-47
Wednesday	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
Thursday	Genesis 1:20—2:3	Mark 1:14-28
Friday	Genesis 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
Saturday	Genesis 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17
Sunday	Genesis 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28

PRAYERS Collect for the Week:

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses, and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday	for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of the faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.
Monday	for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
Tuesday	for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.
Wednesday	for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
Thursday	for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
Friday	for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
Saturday	for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers @ Mt. Calvary

Wayne West at Heartland, Stahl Road, room 102; Elizabeth Rose at home from the hospital; Marge Regelein at Northeast Methodist; Andy Bergquist at Methodist, Floyd Curl; Reta Braune undergoing tests on Wednesday; Marlene Walker who will have surgery on Monday; Florence Winkler at home; Josh Zammit as he begins a new career; Benno Brandt on his 91st birthday this coming week.