**The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 30, 2022*

*Pray and confess aloud 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.*

***Invocatio*n -In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Verse: Jeremiah 31:34b –** “They shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

***Apostle’s Creed***

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 132**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – Luke 4:31-44 |
| Monday | The Rebuilding of the Temple – Ezra 3:1-13 |
| Tuesday | Nehemiah’s Prayer – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6 |
| Wednesday | **The Purification of St. Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord Luke 2:22-40** |
| Thursday | Ezra Reads from the Torah – Nehemiah 7:73c-8:12 |
| Friday | The Israelites Confess Their Sins – Nehemiah 9:1-38 |
| Saturday | Sunday’s OT – Isaiah 6:1-8 |

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| **Catechism: Confession II and Office of the Keys** | **Grades** |
| *What is the Office of the Keys?*  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. | 1st+ |
| *Which are these? Is this written?*  This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: 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**.” (John 20:22-23) | 2nd+ |
| *What do we believe according to these words?*  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. | 3rd+ |