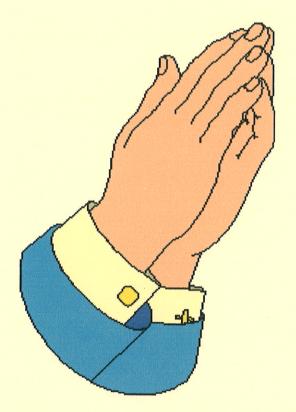
The Meditation of My Heart



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I have a deep concern for the absolute necessity for our called workers to use God's Word and other devotional material for regular meditation. Much of what is on the market or is proposed contains plans for using the Bible (and the Lutheran Confessions) in a *lectio continua* format. I have used such plans myself and have found them valuable. The format of this books gives an alternative plan for meditation. It provides an opportunity for meditation geared toward several different aspects of being a called worker.

This format has a weekly and a daily framework. The weekly framework is based, in part, on the church year. It finds its expression in the prayer, hymn and psalm selection for the week. The other parts of the weekly format are the confession, absolution and benediction. They are used on a weekly basis but are not directly connected to the church year.

The daily framework is based on who we are as called workers. It includes Bible verses, citations from the Book of Concord, references in What Luther Says (WLS), prayers associated with the Bible verses, and, eventually, quotations from WELS sources or church fathers. These selections reflect thoughts connected to each of six major aspects of the public ministry. Each of us is called to be:

A CHRISTIAN - We are children of God who serve Him in this world. Called first to be Christians, we live here as parents, spouses, children, friends, citizens.

A STUDENT - We work in studies, not offices. To share wealth, which is our calling, we need to receive it from the treasury of God's Word.

A PROCLAIMER - We are prophets. We speak for the Lord. Preaching and teaching His Word is the essence of our ministry.

AN EVANGELIST - We do here what we cannot do in heaven. We wield the power of God that alone can change hearts and bring salvation to lost souls.

AN ADVOCATE - Under attack since the Garden of Eden, God's Word remains truth. We stand up for it, not to make it true, but that others might also recognize its veracity.

A COUNSELOR - We are the still, small voice of God to troubled souls. We know those under our care and apply God's healing message to their specific needs.

All parts of this devotional material are to be used meditatively. Each part that is read, from the opening prayer to the anthology, from the confession to the benediction, is to include a time for reflection and personal prayer. May the Lord bless your use of this daily devotional material!

First Sunday in Advent

Prayer Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come! Protect me from dangers that threaten me because of my sins. Rescue me from the devil whom you conquered by your victory on the cross. Amen.

Confession Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live? Ezekiel 33:10

Absolution You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Hymn 1

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ.
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his servants free.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free, With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 18	Ps 24	Ps 25	Ps 24	Ps 24:1-10	Ps 45:1-7
1	Isa 2:1-5	Isa 63:16-64:8	Jer 33:14-16	Jer 33:14-18	Ro 1:16-20	Isa 62:10-12
	Ro 13:11-14	1 Co 1:3-9	1 Th 3:9-13	Ro 13:11-14	Mt 11:25-30	Eph 5:6-14
ļ	Mt 24:37-44	Mk 13:32-37	Lk 21:25-36	Mt 21:1-9	Lk 17:20-15	Lk 19:29-40

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Dt 11:1-7	Luke 8:9-10	Ps 19:14	1 Co 4:15	Isa 14:24-27	Heb 3:6
LC TC:51-52	FC 11:9	Ap IV:256-57	FC II:57-59	Ap IV:389	LC LP:10-11
WLS:1280	WLS:4395	WLS:2965	WLS:445	WLS:4438	WLS:2302
Eze 33:12-20	Rev 2:29	Nu 16:1-11	Mt 8:5-12	Pr 18:2	Ro 8:1-4
Ap XXIII:36-39	LC TC:95-97	AC VII:1-4	SC LP:6-8	LC TC:117-119	FC XI:5
WLS:2113	WLS:62	WLS:3588	WLS:2203	WLS:315	WLS:3976
Mt 7:1-6	Ecc 7:11-14	1 Th 3:2	Jer 31:11	Acts 5:41	Ge 28:10-22
SC LP:15-16	FC II:52-53	FC XII:28, 30	Ap IV:110	FC VII:28-31	Ap IV:303
WLS:4914	WLS:3149	WLS:2912	WLS:4582	WLS:1981	WLS:1168
Col 3:12-15	Isa 8:19-20	Acts 4:31	Ge 8:20-22	Mk 16:20	Job 10:1
LC TC:41-42	LC Cr: 51-53	FC VI:10-12	LC Bap:10	SA Pre:15	LC Bap:77-79
WLS:75	WLS:4764	WLS:3548	WLS:374	WLS:2940	WLS:3280

Christian

O Lord, my eyes have not seen nor have I experienced in person the majesty and might you showed the Israelites. Help me to see and experience in your Word all the great things you have done. And, by my contemplation of your grace, fill me with love for you and the desire to keep your laws and commands. Amen.

Student

Holy Spirit, you gave me life and formed me as a human being, with a body and a soul. You gave me one mouth, but two eyes and two ears. Grant me always to hear and read what you say in your Word. Open my mind to understand and my heart to believe. Amen.

Proclaimer

I am not worthy to be in your presence, O God, much less to be part of your family. But what grace you have shown me: You have called me to be your fellow worker! Give me strength to spread the gospel of Christ, and joy as this work strengthens and encourages faith. Amen.

Evangelist

No sacrifice of mine could ever be pleasing in your sight, dear Father. I thank you for accepting the holy sacrifice of your Son, and for giving me the privilege of sharing him. Merciful Father, you have extended this world's time of grace and have promised there will be no more universal catastrophes until the end. Help me to use this time to share Jesus so that others might know the true peace of salvation. Amen.

Advocate

O Lord, human pride stands up against you and arrogantly demands that your Word be subject to its thoughts. Protect me from the impulses of this haughtiness, which lives in my sinful heart also. Cause me always to subject my reason to your revelation. Give me clear vision to see that every concession to human reason is an affront to you. Amen.

Counselor

Dear Jesus, my sin makes me feel like I am living on death row. Even more, I am called to minister to people who turn to me for help when their hearts condemn them with guilt, real and imagined. But your promise turns both sin and death into fates to be avoided. I bless your name for taking away my condemnation and, along with it, my death sentence. By your Spirit enable me to comfort the afflicted with your sweet promise of freedom from sin and death. Amen.

Benediction

Blessed is the man you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. Psalm 65:4

Second Sunday in Advent

Prayer Stir up your power, O Lord God, and give me a believing heart that I may serve you with a pure mind and receive your Son when he comes again in all his glory and grace. Amen.

Confession I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.

Psalm 38:17-18

Absolution For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:9-10

Psalm 85

I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Hymn 16

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and listen, for he brings Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin And furnished for a guest within, And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soli
Ps 130	Ps 85	Ps 24	Ps 85	Dt 18:15-22	Ps 117
 Isa 11:1-10	Isa 40:1-11	Mal 3:1-4	Mal 4:1-6	2 Ti 3:10-17	Zep 1:7-18
Ro 15:4-13	2 Pe 3:8-14	Php 1:3-11	Ro 15:4-13	Lk 17:26-37	2 Co 10:7-18
Mt 3:1-12	Mk 1:1-8	Lk 3:1-6	Lk 21:25-36	Lk 1:67-80	Mk 13:1-8

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Jas 1:19-20	Dt 6:1-9	Mk 13:11	Ps 14:1-3, 7	Ro 15:5-6	Isa 42:3
SC LP:1-2	LC Pre:11-13	SC Pre:7	FC III:8-9	FC Int:9-10	Ap IV:43-47
WLS:2944	WLS:1665	WLS:4496	WLS:1660	WLS:602	WLS:4153
Eph 5:21	Ps 12:6	1 Jn 1:5	2 Ki 5:1-3	Jn 2:13-17	Ps 23:1-6
AC XXVI:31-39	FC VI:6	Ap XII:39-43	LC Bap:32-34	Ap XXI:40	FC XI:89-90
WLS:4082	WLS:3732	WLS:1326	WLS:5024	WLS:2655	WLS:45
Ex 35:30-36:1	Jn 8:2	Ps 106:2	Eph 2:1-10	Jer 15:10-11	Job 16:1-5
LC TC:5-9	LC Cr:70	Ap XII:28-29	Ap XXIV:11-12	Ap VII/VIII:9	LC LP:10-11
WLS:35	WLS:4139	WLS:3558	WLS:480	WLS:4509	WLS:3349
Pr 6:6-11	Jn 2:22	Isa 51:16	Jude 24-25	Lev 10:1-7	Jn 11:21-26
FC XII:9, 24	FC RN:3	AC XXVI:4-17	AC XX:24-26	FC RN:17-18	Ap XXVIII:5
WLS:2576	WLS:172	WLS:3617	WLS:1732	WLS:1004	WLS:3752

Christian

It is one thing, O Christ, to believe what you call me: blameless, righteous, innocent, and holy. It is quite another to believe what my sinful heart calls me: better than others, superior in ideas and thoughts, someone to be reverenced and followed. Grant me wisdom to see that you alone deserve the title, "Reverend." Smash down my pride and my desire to get my own way. By your submission to the cross lead me to submit to others in love, out of reverence for you. Amen.

Student

I like sleep, dear Jesus. What a renewing experience you give me through it. But more precious than sleep is the renewing experience of your Word. The people of Jerusalem gathered at dawn to hear you. Give me such devotion every day. Amen.

Proclaimer

The ministry you have given me, O Holy Spirit, is a ministry of words. I cannot fulfill my calling with my mouth shut or with my pen out of ink. Fill my mouth with your words, so that when my flock listens to my voice they will hear your message. Amen.

Evangelist

What a sorry state our world is in! What a desperate situation we human beings face! Our common condition is corruption. We founder as a fellowship of fools. Our only hope is your salvation. Joy and gladness come only because you restore our fortunes in Christ. You have done this for me, O God. Use me to do it for others. Amen.

Advocate

Dear Jesus, you were not a lifeless stone, a passive and mild moderate, easy-going and tolerant, when it came to your Father's house. Keep me free from those characteristics also when your truth is at stake. When it comes to your Word, grant that zeal for it will always consume me. Amen.

Counselor

O Lord, I know that as a counselor I have to speak. How else could I comfort and advise, guide and admonish? Help me also to shut up and listen. Teach me not to be long-winded and argumentative, no matter how fine I think my speech might be. Open my ears so that when I open my mouth I will bring encouragement, comfort and relief to those in distress. Amen.

Benediction

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7

Third Sunday in Advent

Prayer Hear my prayers, Lord Jesus Christ. Come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive out the darkness from my heart and fill it with your light. Amen.

Confession In those days people will no longer say, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." Everyone will die for his own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—his own teeth will be set on edge. Jeremiah 31:29-30

Absolution Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him. Isaiah 55:7

Psalm 130

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Hymn 14

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.

Prepare to greet the Savior,

Who takes your sins away.

To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;

The promised Lord from heaven

To all the world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside.
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 146	Ps 71	Ps 130	Ps 111	Isa 61:1-11	Ps 22:22-31
Isa 35:1-10	Isa 61:1-3, 10-11	Zep 3:14-17	Isa 35:1-6	1 Co 9:16-23	Isa 56:1-7
Jas 5:7-11	1 Th 5:16-24	Php 4:4-7	1 Co 1:26-31	Mt 3:1-12	2 Ti 2:3-15
Mt 11:2-11	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	Lk 3:7-18	Mt 11:2-10	Lk 3:3-14	Lk 7:18-26

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Mic 6:6-8	1 Pe 2:1-3	Ge 12:6-9	Lk 23:34	Ps 9:3-6	I Th 3:13
Ap XVI:6-8	FC II:16	LC TC:84	SC LP:6-8	LC TC:262	FC II:12-14
WLS:4714	WLS:2860	WLS:1335	WLS:3995	WLS:3137	WLS:58
Job 34:10-15	Eph 3:14-19	Eze 2:1-3:10	Acts 4:8-12	1 Ki 22:15-28	Mk 14:32-36
LC SoA:33-35	Ap XV:29-30	Tr:60	Ap VII/VIII:36	FC X:31	LC LP:103
WLS:893	WLS:4740	WLS:2991	WLS:205	WLS:3957	WLS:3288
1 Pe 2:13-17	1 Ki 4:29-34	Lk 12:11-12	Ps 64:9	1 Ti 4:15-16	Jer 30:4-9
FC 1:28-29	FC XI:14, 17	SC Pre:7	SA III/III:33-35	SA II/II:15	Ap XI:6-8
WLS:1802	WLS:212	WLS:4380	WLS:1719	WLS:829	WLS:3742
Mk 10:23-27	Ps 18:30	1 Co 2:6-10	Isa 25:6-9	3 Jn 2-4	2 Sa 18:32-19:8
Ap XX:12-13	SA II/III:1	Ap XI:5	Ap XV:3-5	AC XXVIII:23-28	FC V:9
WLS:3630	WLS:3706	WLS:27	WLS:4207	WLS:1939	WLS:1341

Christian

Through you, O Lord, I have certain inalienable rights, including life and liberty. You have made me free: free from the law, free from sin, free from the power of death. Now I ask you for the wisdom and strength to live as a free person, not in the bondage of self-indulgence, which the world sees as "freedom," but in the true freedom of serving you. Amen.

Student

Your shield is up and holding, O Lord. Your flawless Word provides me with perfect protection from being assimilated into an existence of doubt, error, sin, and unbelief. Without it, any resistance on my part would be futile. Cause me to boldly go where others have gone before me, to your Word, and to be renewed there to live your prime directive of sharing the gospel. Amen.

Proclaimer

O Holy Spirit, you give me everything I need to be a proclaimer. You give me people to proclaim to, people like me, who need a promise to trust. You give me a message to proclaim, the promise of universal forgiveness in Jesus. You give me a place to proclaim it and a voice to proclaim it with. Now, I pray, give me determination, strength, zeal, and faithfulness to do what you have called me to do: to proclaim. Amen.

Evangelist

Life sometimes seems like a maze, an endless striving and searching, with seemingly no way of escape. But things are not always the way they seem, are they, Jesus? You are the salvation of all people, you and your name alone. You have led me out of the labyrinth of self-righteousness and sin. Use me to mark the way for others. Amen.

Advocate

I would like to take it easy, O Lord. I want to be able just to let up and not be on my guard. But that is impossible, is it not? That is contrary to your will and my call. I do not ask you to free me from watching my life and doctrine closely. Instead, I ask for diligence, commitment, and perseverance. And I look for the blessings that you promise when these are present. Amen.

Counselor

Family love is just so unreasonable at times, O Lord. Who can explain the unthinking devotion parents have for their children and their emotional affection even for those who have dishonored their family's name? I do not ask that you make me understand how this can be. I ask instead that you help me see this reality of human relationships and that you grant me wisdom and strength in dealing with it. Help me to lead them to put you first and to give their children what they truly need, your law and gospel. Amen.

Benediction

Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. 1 Kings 8:56

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prayer Stir up your power, O Lord, and come! Be merciful to me and forgive my sins. Help me rid my life of everything that hinders my salvation. Amen.

Confession All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. Romans 2:12

Absolution God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. 2 Corinthians 5:19

Psalm 92

How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever.

But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Hymn 23

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!

Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

REFRAIN.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 24	Ps 89	Ps 85	Ps 92	Hag 2:7-10	Ps 93
Isa 7:10-14	2 Sa 7:8-16	Mic 5:2-5	Isa 12:1-6	1 Ti 2:1-6	Zec 6:12-15
Ro 1:1-7	Ro 16:25-27	Heb 10:5-10	Php 4:4-7	Mk 6:17-29	1 Pe 4:3-7
Mt 1:18-25	Lk 1:26-38	Lk 1:39-55	Lk 1:46-55	Jn 1:29-34	Lk 1:56-66

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Gal 5:1	Pr 12:15	Acts 10:39-43	Isa 42:1-7	Mt 10:26	Pr 14:27
LC TC:145-148	Ap IV:265-266	FC II:50-51	Ap IV:187	Ap XII:83-84	LC LP:33
WLS:383	WLS:4397	WLS:3562	WLS:579	WLS:4045	WLS:137
Lk 5:16	Pr 23:12	2 Ti 2:1-2	Mic 4:1-8	Heb 13:9-10	Dt 1:9-18
FC IV:19-20	FC VI:20	LC Con:5-7	FC I:43-44	SC LP:3-5	Ap XII:64
WLS:1623	WLS:743	WLS:4770	WLS:2600	WLS:227	WLS:4341
Hos 8:7	Acts 17:11	Ex 6:28-7:6	Jn 3:35-36	Ps 59:7-8	2 Co 1:8-11
AC XXVII:18-30	Ap IV:351	LC TC:158-160	AtCr:27-28	FC X:3	FC XI:30
WLS:3892	WLS:3169	WLS:631	WLS:4573	WLS:1975	WLS:20
2 Ki 20:1-11	Lk 2:19-20	Ps 51:13-15	1 Ti 2:3-6	Jdg 6:25-32	Jas 1:2-4
LC SoA:53-54	FC II:5	Tr:82	FC XI:83-84	FC III:7	AC XX:15-22
WLS:1069	WLS:4371	WLS:2971	WLS:432	WLS:4484	WLS:2028

Christian

How many will be the days of my life? How many years do I have here, O God? Will you add more if I ask for more? Do I really want any more? Numerous questions about death and life buzz around in my head, causing me turmoil and anxiety. I give them all to you, in whose hands are all my times. Add ten or fifteen years to my span, if it is your will. Call me home at your right time, O Lord. I trust your holy and gracious will. Amen.

Student

It does not bother me too much when others say to me, "You always want to be right." After all, who would want to be wrong? It does sting, however, when I hear, "You always think you are right." The element of truth in that charge hurts. I want to be wise, dear Spirit, wiser every day in the mysteries of God. This will never happen as long as I think I know everything or rely on my own contemplations. Advise and guide me by your Word. Amen.

Proclaimer

I am a child, O Lord, and yet you call me to be a parent, even a grandparent. You want me to entrust what I have heard to people who will teach others. For this task, keep me strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Evangelist

People are just not used to matters of black and white, O Jesus, though we should be. We experience absolutes, like death and life, night and day, yet we always like to have a bit of wiggle room. When it comes to you, there are no shades of gray. With you is eternal life. Without you is God's wrath. There is no inbetween. You have given me the former. Never let me settle for anything less as I serve others. Amen.

Advocate

Contending against falsehood is not, nor has it ever been, easy. I know that I am not telling you anything you do not already know. The problem I wrestle with is that I can sometimes make it easier on myself. I can employ subterfuge or get manmade rules passed that keep error from being exposed, just to make my life easier. So I pray to you, O Holy Spirit, guide me on the right path as an advocate for your truth, even if the path is narrow and rugged. Amen.

Counselor

Why, O Lord, why do people fall for foolishness? Why the adultery, the jealousy, the alcoholism, the rage? It is the bait, is it not? Satan baits the snares of death with the fleeting pleasures of sin. Use me to lead others to the fountain of life: the fear of the Lord. Amen.

Benediction

You will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Joel 2:26

First Sunday after Christmas

Prayer Almighty and eternal God, direct my actions that I may always please you. Open my eyes by the power of the Spirit that I may see and confess the Christchild as the Redeemer of all. Amen.

Confession O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. Ezra 9:6

Absolution Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:15

Psalm 111

Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

Hymn 41

Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne; Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son.

He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take; In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make.

He serves that I a lord may be-A great exchange indeed! Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need?

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 2	Ps 111	Ps 111	Ps 103	Isa 28:14-19	Ps 71:17-24
-	Isa 63:7-9	Isa 45:20-25	1 Sa 2:18-20, 26	Isa 42:1-4	1 Pe 2:1-10	Ex 19:1-9
	Gal 4:4-7	Col 3:12-17	Heb 2:10-18	Gal 4:1-7	Lk 2:22-32	Rev 3:14-22
ĺ.	Mt 2:13-15, 19-23	Lk 2:25-40	Lk 2:41-52	Lk 2:25-38	Lk 9:57-62	Jn 10:31-42

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Ecc 5:10-20	Ro 12:1-2	Jer 8:8-12	Heb 8:7, 13	Nu 14:10-19	Lk 1:37
FC I:46-47	FC II:52-53	AC XIV	LC Cr:66-69	FC RN:7	Ap IV:204-205
WLS:3284	WLS:441	WLS:5037	WLS:2204	WLS:1218	WLS:4479
Gen 2:7	Jn 17:6-8	Pr 9:7-9	2 Co 5:16-21	La 3:52-66	Ps 4:6-8
Ap IV:189-191	LC Pre:19-20	FC V:5-6	ApCr:7-8	SA Pre:15	FC I:32
WLS:4888	WLS:3832	WLS:2916	WLS:4012	WLS:3184	WLS:163
Phm 12-16	Ps 119:73	Jas 5:19-20	Nu 11:26-30	Lk 12:8-9	Ps 69:1-3, 13-18
LC TC:269-270	FC XI:52-53	FC XI:3	Ap XII:75-82	Ap XXI:40	SA III/VIII:1
WLS:154	WLS:4758	WLS:3557	WLS:485	WLS:4545	WLS:2531
1 Jn 2:9-11	Ps 25:8-9	Jn 8:30	Ps 113:2-3	Eph 4:15	Isa 51:12-15
SC TC:21-22	LC Con:32-33	LC Cr:61-62	SA III/III:1	LC LP:65-66	Ap IV:301-302
WLS:3059	WLS:342	WLS:3611	WLS:2861	WLS:1158	WLS:4349

Christian

What I long for, only you can give. What I desire, comes only from your hands. My Father, I do not want to be a person who whines about the stress of my ministry. I do not want to be a person who blubbers in words or heart about how little compensation I receive or about how much more I could have made otherwise. I ask you to help me find satisfaction in my labor. Enable me to enjoy the wealth and possessions you give, to accept my lot and be happy in my work. I ask for this gift because I trust that by it you will keep me occupied with gladness of heart, instead of with the anxieties of life. Amen.

Student

O Lord, sometimes I like to go where everybody knows my name. I always need to go where I can know your name. That leaves just one place, your holy Word. I thank you for revealing your name in it. Fill me with the desire to go there often. Amen.

Proclaimer

They put up statues for heroes and heroines, O Lord, especially for those who save lives. But no one is knocking on my door to have me pose for one, even though you make me a life-saver of the first order. You bring back people who are wandering from the truth by the word I proclaim. You turn sinners from the error of their ways and save them from death--everlasting death! Encourage me in my ministry by making me see how you use it to make an eternal difference to others. Amen.

Evangelist

You established a multi-dimensional gospel, O Jesus. You gave it height and depth. Your blood forgives a mountain of sins and fills an abyss of guilt. You have done even more, giving it breadth and duration. It covers all people and lasts for all time. How can my words express such comprehensive grace? Give me your words and cause my tongue to praise your name from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Advocate

If I get annoyed, irritated and virulent at those who tamper with your truth, how do you feel, O Lord? You love their souls even while you hate their falsehoods. You want them, above all else, to know Jesus as their Savior. As I speak up for your truth, give me that same perspective. As angry as I might get on behalf of your Word, help me always to see all the erring as people for whom Jesus died. Amen.

Counselor

Helpless and hopeless—that describes many who turn to me as a counselor. They say in their hearts, if not with their lips, "Who can show us any good?" Their question may be rhetorical, but your answer is not, O Lord. When the light of your face shines, it brings joy and security. Give this through me to those whom I serve. Amen.

Benediction

Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me. Psalm 66:20

Second Sunday after Christmas

Prayer I thank you, almighty God, for the gift of your Son who humbled himself to become my Brother. Grant that the birth of my Lord Jesus Christ might free me from the slavery of sin and bring me into the glorious liberty of serving him in his kingdom. Amen.

Confession My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. Psalm 38:4

Absolution Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise the LORD from the earth; young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Hymn 34

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 148	Ps 148	Ps 148	Ps 18	Zec 2:10-13	Ps 124
	Isa 61:10-62:3	Mic 5:2-5	Ge 17:1-7	Jer 31:15-20	1 Jn 4:9-16	Ge 27:22-46
]	Eph 1:3-6, 15-18	Heb 2:10-18	Gal 4:4-7	1 Pe 4:12-19	Lk 1:46-55	Ro 9:1-8
	Jn 1:14-18	Jn 7:40-43	Lk 1:68-75	Mt 2:13-23	Jn 1:15-18	Lk 5:27-32

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Jn 15:1-4	Ps 119:160	2 Co 3:1-3	Hos 11:8-11	Jude 8-10	1 Ki 8:27-30
Ap IV:236-237	LC TC:88-89	LC LP:54	AC V:1-4	Ap XX:4-8	FC II:68
WLS:4054	WLS:2859	WLS:4	WLS:5036	WLS:2612	WLS:1152
Rev 3:14	Dt 8:1-3	Lk 24:9-12	Ps 66:1-5	1 Co 14:37	La 3:1-33
LC TC:170-174	FC VII:96	LC Cr:61-62	Ap XII:61-62	FC XII:5-6	LC LP:114-116
WLS:1186	WLS:4754	WLS:2689	WLS:144	WLS:4385	WLS:1879
Pr 27:21	Lk 21:33	Zec 4:6-10	1 Jn 5:12	1 Sa 11:1-8	Mt 5:3-6
SC Cr:1-2	LC Pre:9	AC XXVIII:5-12	LC Cr:27-31	FC XI:1-2	Ap XII:102-109
WLS:2724	WLS:340	WLS:4298	WLS:1848	WLS:1216	WLS:4440
Am 5:4-15	Heb 1:1-2	2 Ch 30:6-12	Mk 1:14-15	Pr 26:4-5	Ro 7:7-12
AC XXVII:49-50	FC II:46	FC 1:54	Ap IV:34-35	Ap XXIV:68	FC VII:87
WLS:3879	WLS:3715	WLS:2913	WLS:3914	WLS:1742	WLS:1350

Prayers

Christian

Heraclitus seems to have had it right when he said, "Everything flows and nothing stays," and "You cannot step into the same river twice." But he never met you, O Jesus. You are the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, my never-changing certainty. Years come and go, but you are my same Savior through them all. Fix my heart on you this year and forever. Amen.

Student

Without water, how quickly I become thirsty. Without food, how soon hunger sets in. You have made my life depend on such things, but you have also made my life more than food and drink. I cannot live without your Word. Make me to know and feel a hunger and thirst for it, that I might come to it often, for the life of my soul. Amen.

Proclaimer

You have turned my tongue into a double-edged sword, O Holy Spirit. You have given me your Word to proclaim. Open my lips to speak as sharply as your law speaks, to warn against unfaithfulness and stubbornness, to be as fierce as the anger of the Lord. Use my mouth to invite as sweetly as your gospel invites, to promise unilateral grace, to be as compassionate as the love of God. Amen.

Evangelist

I cannot see it. I cannot touch it. I have no means to measure or detect it. I can only hear what you say, O Lord, and what you say is marvelous beyond all imagining. You will not give us up. You will not hand us over. Your heart is changed and your compassion is aroused. O God, the Holy One, you will not come in wrath. What a revelation! What a message! Make me a faithful, if awe-struck, messenger. Amen.

Advocate

"Spirituality" is not a condition people come by naturally, at least not true spirituality. It is your gift, O Holy Spirit. "Spirituality" is not a condition that can be measured by actions alone. Even the lawless one comes with counterfeit miracles. True spirituality is a condition caused by, and measured in, words. You give no special spiritual gift to those who oppose your truth, O Spirit. Help me always to see that the true measure of a prophet is found in his acknowledgment of the truth of your written Word. Amen.

Counselor

I sometimes get things turned around. I meet with those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who are meek, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and am glad that I am not like them. Change my attitude, O God. Make me realize that those who are empty are blessed because they are ready to be filled with the riches of your grace, the comfort of your love, the power of your Spirit and the righteousness of your Son. Amen.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Epiphany

Prayer O God, on this day you revealed your Son to strangers and foreigners by the guidance of a star.

Be merciful to me whom you have called out of darkness, and lead me by the light of your Word to the full enjoyment of your glory in heaven. Amen.

Confession I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Romans 7:18

Absolution Son, your sins are forgiven. Mark 2:5

Psalm 72

Endow the King with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy.

All kings will bow down to him, and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

Hymn 79

How lovely shines the Morning Star!

The nations see and hail afar

The light in Judah shining.

O David's Son of Jacob's race,

My Bridegroom and my King of grace,

For you my heart is pining.

Lowly, holy, great and glorious,

O victorious Prince of graces,

Filling all the heav'nly places.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 72	Ps 72	Ps 72	Ps 72	Ps 72	Ps 97
Isa 60:1-6	Isa 60:1-6	Isa 60:1-6	Isa 60:1-6	Acts 8:26-39	Zec 14:8-11
Eph 3:2-12	Eph 3:2-12	Eph 3:2-12	Eph 3:2-12	Lk 4:16-21	3 Jn 1-12
 Mt 2:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	Mt 4:12-17	Mt 13:10-17

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
1 Sa 4:12-18	Mk 8:12	Ps 135:1-2	Php 1:15-18	Jer 23:15-24	Heb 10:25
LC LP:85-87	FC II:67	Tr:11	Ap XX:1-3	SA II/II:15	LC LP:92
WLS:1530	WLS:4811	WLS:1950	WLS:1555	WLS:4543	WLS:1529
Da 12:3	2 Pe 1:3-4	Nu 18:1-7	Mt 19:13-15	Ps 129:1-8	Php 4:2-3
SA III/XI:1-3	Ap XII:68-71	SC Pr:1-6	Tr:67	Ap XXIV:16	Ap XII:149
WLS:2404	WLS:1245	WLS:5073	WLS:3017	WLS:85	WLS:4262
Mt 12:46-50	Job 12:7-11	Ro 12:6-7	Jer 33:14-16	Rev 2:9-10	Jdg 6:11-24
Ap XXIII:33-35	FC X1:92-93	Ap XXVIII:14	FC XI:8	LC LP:62-64	FC XI:73-74
WLS:4052	WLS:3716	WLS:2920	WLS:4015	WLS:3183	WLS:798
Php 3:12-14	Pr 14:12	Acts 14:15	Isa 53:11	Jn 8:42-47	Job 1:6-12
LC TC:202	Ap XXIV:3-5	Ap XXIV:17-18	AtCr:27-28	FC VII:33	LC SoA:66-70
WLS:621	WLS:4366	WLS:3575	WLS:248	WLS:4417	WLS:2070

Christian

What was it like, O Jesus, to be part of your family while you were growing up? What was it like to be your mother, to know that bond that exists only between a mother and child? What was it like to be your brother or sister, to have that closeness that siblings alone can know? I will never know, but I believe your Word when you tell me that I am your mother and brother and sister. Preserve that faith which alone makes me part of your family. Amen.

Student

I do not like to ask for directions, dear Father, because then I have to admit that I am lost. But that is just what I would be on my own, and worse. Were I to think and believe what seems right to me, in the end it would lead to death. Show me the way by your Word, the way of truth and the way of eternal life. Amen.

Proclaimer

Spirit of the Word, your call defines me by the place in which you call me to serve. I am a minister in the house of the Lord. My service, my ministry is not exactly the same as that of other ministers. No two are alike in every aspect. Keep me always aware of that common thread of your public ministry of the gospel: bringing praise to the Lord by proclaiming his saving message. Thank you for making me a minister. Amen.

Evangelist

What power your gospel has, O Christ! People can preach it out of envy or rivalry, out of selfish ambition and the desire to stir up trouble for others, yet it works! Give me a true heart that proclaims the good news out of love and good will. Even more, give me the confidence that, no matter why it is preached, your gospel brings salvation. Amen.

Advocate

Deliver me, O Holy Spirit, from self-pity. When I try to stand firm in the truth, I suffer. I am afflicted and accused, slandered and persecuted, tested and drained. Lift my eyes from my navel to your promises. Cause me to realize that this lasts only a short while. Give me the vision to look ahead to the crown of life that awaits the faithful. Amen.

Counselor

I have trouble answering people who ask me, "Why?" "Why do I have to face problems and crises if I am a Christian?" Give me humility, O God. Keep me from assuming that I know all the answers. Remind me that you reveal only so much and that you have your reasons for what you do, reasons that I am not aware of. Instead of speculation, fill me with a faith that trusts your love and grace. Amen.

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

First Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer Dear Jesus, you were anointed with the Holy Spirit at your conception. You were revealed as the Savior by his presence and the Father's voice at your baptism. As I see you at Jordan's stream, send that same Spirit to me to fill my heart with the certainty that you are my Savior too. Amen.

Confession When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. Psalm 32:3-5

Absolution Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. Psalm 32:1-2

Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

> I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

Hymn 88

To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord,
To do his Father's pleasure;
Baptized by John, the Father's Word
Was given us to treasure.
This heav'nly washing now shall be
A cleansing from transgression
And by his blood and agony
Release from death's oppression.
A new life now awaits us.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 45	Ps 2	Ps 2	Ps 89	Ps 78:1-7	Ps 26
Isa 42:1-7	Isa 49:1-6	1 Sa 16:1-13	Isa 42:1-4	Ro 10:8-18	Mal 1:6-11
Acts 10:34-38	Acts 16:25-34	Tit 3:4-7	Acts 10:34-38	Jn 6:28-40	Ro 14:13-23
Mt 3:13-17	Mk 1:4-11	Lk 3:15-17, 21 - 22	Mt 3:13-17	Mt 10:32-39	Lk 12:51-59

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Acts 8:18-24	Pr 21:16	Mt 28:1-10	Pr 19:23	Tit 1:9	Isa 33:5-6
FC VI:15-19	Ap IV:48-52	LC LP:54	FC XI:27	FC RN:15-16	Ap XI:2
WLS: <i>2830</i>	WLS:213	WLS: 3644	WLS: <i>2542</i>	WLS:641	WLS: 5001
1 Co 11:3-16	Ps 25:4-5	1 Pe 4:10-11	Gen 12:1-3	Mt 8:18-22	Ps 103:8-18
Ap XV:45-48	FC XI:12-13	LC Sh Pre:15-19	AC XX:24-26	FC Int:6-8	FC III:30
WLS: 4293	WLS: <i>3152</i>	WLS:265	WLS: 4589	WLS: <i>1964</i>	WLS:1492
Ne 5:1-13	Lk 16:19-31	Ps 34:1-3	Gal 3:26-29	Da 11:31-35	Mt 17:14-18
LC Bap:68-73	AC XXVII:15-17	Tr:67-68	SC LP:6-8	Ap XXIV:44-47	LC LP:103
WLS:389	WLS: 4392	WLS: <i>2946</i>	WLS:486	WLS: 3949	WLS:2816
Ecc 9:9	1 Tim 6:20-21	Isa 59:21	Rev 3:7-8	Dt 12:1-7	Jn 5:1-9, 13-14
FC 1V:7	FC II:15	SC Pre:14-16	LC Bap:37	Ap IV:400	Ap XII:51-52
WLS: <i>2753</i>	WLS:253	WLS: 4300	WLS: <i>3010</i>	WLS:989	WLS:4441

Christian

People may justifiably speak of the "bonds" of matrimony, but you, O Lord, keep them from being chains. You make the lifelong connections of marriage channels of joy by which two lives are shared in love for each other. Help me always to view marriage in this way and to seek the happiness you intend for it to bring. Amen.

Student

O Holy Spirit, because of my sinful nature the path of understanding is uphill, narrow, twisting, bumpy, with the wind in my face. How much easier it is to let your Word collect dust! What great company I join when I neglect its study! But it is the company of death. Give the boot to the recalcitrant jackass that is my sinful mind and keep me moving on the path of understanding with your gracious promise of life. Amen.

Proclaimer

I cannot imagine receiving a gift and not unwrapping it. Just as stupid is receiving a gift, unwrapping it, but never using it. You have given me a rich treasure, your very words, O God, and you have called me to proclaim them. Give me strength, I pray, to use this gift, to use it faithfully to serve others, to your praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Evangelist

We are all different, O Lord. We have different nationalities, different economic conditions, different cultural backgrounds, different genders. Too often I see only the differences. To my shame I have even judged others solely (and soul-ly) on the basis of outward differences. Give me your vision, O God. Open my eyes to him in whom differences do not matter, to see that faith in Christ puts all on the same level, the highest that any could ever achieve. Then use me to promote the promise that gives it. Amen.

Advocate

Dear God, you make freedom of religion a myth. We rejoice when governments do not impose laws which interfere with our worship. But you do not grant a freedom of religion in which people may worship whomever they please, or even worship you in whatever way they please. Lead me to your Name, to your holy Word, where alone are the joy and blessing of your presence, where alone true freedom is found. Amen.

Counselor

When I counsel those who come to me, I just wish I had a key: a key to unlock their pain, their guilt, their depression, their loneliness, their confusion, their foolishness. You are not a genie, O Lord, but you do grant this wish. You tell me that your fear is the key to the treasure of justice, salvation, wisdom, righteousness, and knowledge. Help me to supply this key in every situation. Amen.

Benediction

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:34

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer Almighty and eternal God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth. In your mercy hear my prayers and grant me your peace all the days of my life. Amen.

Confession Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O LORD, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand? Psalm 130:1-3

Absolution I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. Jeremiah 33:8

Psalm 89

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.

Hymn 86

The only Son from heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere his light confining,
No star so brightly shining as he, our morning Star.

Oh, time of God appointed,
Oh, bright and holy morn!
He comes, the King anointed,
The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to conquer for us,
To open heav'n before us and bring us life again.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 89	Ps 67	Ps 133-134	Ps 84	Ps 104:24-35	Ps 143:7-12
	Isa 49:1-6	1 Sa 3:1-10	Isa 62:1-5	Isa 61:1-3	Eph 5:22-33	Ge 46:28-34
	1 Co 1:1-9	1 Co 6:12-20	I Co 12:1-11	Ro 12:1-5	Mt 12:46-50	Tit 2:1-10
1.	Jn 1:29-41	Jn 1:43-51	Jn 2:1-11	Lk 2:41-52	Jn 1:35-42	Mt 8:19-22

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Hag 1:2-11 Ap XXIII:28-32	Lk 12:54-56 FC III:11	Ps 40:9-10 FC VI:10-12	Lk 4:42-44 SA III/III:38	Ps 21:8-12 Ap XXIII:59	Jn 11:14-15 FC V:9
WLS:4318	WLS:3835	WLS:9	WLS: 3919	WLS:2200	WLS:1446
SS 4:8-15	1 Co 4:6	Eze 34:11-16	Acts 15:3	Ne 6:10-14	Mk 9:20-27
LC Bap:64-67	LC TC:91-92	FC XII:28, 30	Ap XV:3-5	LC LP:65-66	LC SoA:23-27
WLS:1342	WLS:4743	WLS:3546	WLS:1596	WLS:4540	WLS:2479
Heb 6:4-6	Pr 3:5-8	Mk 9:36-37	Ps 77:13-15	1 Th 2:1-2	Jnh 2:1-10
FC II:70	FC 1:8	LC SoA:15-19	Ap IV:40-42	FC XII:40	Ap XII:158-160
WLS:1671	WLS:891	WLS:3613	WLS:3021	WLS:88	WLS:4335
Mt 7:9-12	Pr 4:1-13	Col 1:24-27	Mal 1:10-11	2 Pe 3:3-7	1 Sa 13:7-14
Ap XVI:13	LC Pre:5-8	LC TC:86	AC IV:1-3	SA III/VIII:9-13	FC XI:9-10
WLS:4087	WLS:2873	WLS:2900	WLS:4591	WLS:2659	WLS:1110

Christian

The phrase, "First things first," too often means, "My first things first." I have lived that attitude, O Lord, and learned the results: much planting, little harvest; eating, but without satisfaction; being clothed, but lacking warmth; earning money and wondering where it goes. Give me the faith and devotion to put your first things first, to make your priorities my priorities. I rest confident in the blessings you then will give. Amen.

Student

What problems I could have avoided! What misunderstanding I could have kept out of my mind! What weakness I could have eluded! You make it so simple, O Spirit of truth, when you say, "Do not go beyond what is written." Make this simple truth my guiding principle in the way I study, in what I believe and in the words I preach and teach. Amen.

Proclaimer

I want to be able to say that I like little children, but, Jesus, the truth is that I do not always enjoy them. They fuss and cry. They cannot always understand me, nor I them. They have not learned to control outward expressions of their sinful natures very well. Give me what you had, a love that welcomes them gladly. Give me the certainty that, when I welcome them in your name, I welcome you. Amen.

Evangelist

You have your plan, O God, for the offerings you are to receive. You do not look for them from people like Cain, who are just going through the motions. You send me and others out with your gospel to all nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. You send us to create faith and sanctify hearts to bring pure offerings to your name. Cause me to recognize, follow and be part of your plan to make your name great in every place. Amen.

Advocate

The fight for the truth of your Word is not my fight, O Lord. I say this not out of apathy, but out of confidence. You know who opposes your Word, and you know what you will do with them. I know that I cannot lose when I stand up for your truth, because the battle and the victory are yours. Steel me for every fight with this certainty. Amen.

Counselor

Death seems to have no redeeming qualities, O Jesus. Its permanence, separation, shock and sorrow stagger the heart. But you do nothing without a purpose. Help me to comfort the grieving by pointing them to you. Use the words of gospel solace to lead survivors to faith. Amen.

Benediction

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love, Ephesians 6:24

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer Almighty and eternal God, be merciful to me in my weakness. In every danger and necessity stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend me. Amen.

Confession God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Luke 18:13

Absolution [Christ] sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:27

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them is great reward.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Hymn 85

O God from God, O Light from Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings,
To you in heaven's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, Amen.
Deep in the prophets' sacred page,
Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly, in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"
Sung by heav'n's hosts in splendor bright,

Re-echoed now, "Good will!" Amen.

VIII.	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 27	Ps 62	Ps 19	Ps 145	Da 6:10-23	Ps 37:1-11
i	Isa 9:1-4	Jnh 3:1-5, 10	Isa 61:1-6	Ex 15:22-27	Ro 8:24-30	Job 1:1-22
	1 Co 1:10-17	1 Co 7:29-31	1 Co 12:12-21, 26-27	Ro 12:6-16	Lk 4:38-44	1 Pe 3:15-17
	Mt 4:12-23	Mk 1:14-20	Lk 4:14-21	Jn 2:1-11	Jn 4:1-14	Mk 1:40-45

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Tit 3:1-2	Jer 33:2-3	Acts 20:25-35	2 Sa 12:7-13	Mk 8:33	Ps 31:9-16
LC TC:211-212	LC TC:99	Ap XXIV:17-18	Ap VII/VIII:10-11	FC III:6	SA III/III:36-38
WLS:1568	WLS: 4382	WLS: 3547	WLS:472	WLS: 4489	WLS:1032
Lk 10:18-20	Ecc 12:9-12	1 Co 9:16	lsa 49:22-26	Acts 13:6-12	Ne 9:5-6, 16-17
SC LP:12-14	FC XI:33	AC XXVI:4-17	FC XI:14-15	Ap XXVII:22-27	Ap XIII:20-22
WLS: <i>1874</i>	WLS:222	WLS: 4802	WLS: <i>1859</i>	WLS:1182	WLS: 4654
Jer 17:5-8	Rev 22:6	2 Ki 5:4-15	Jn 6:40	Pr 15:1	Ro 14:1
Ap XVI:1-6	LC Pre:19-20	FC V:10	LC LP:51	SC TC:15-16	FC 1:30
WLS: 4656	WLS: <i>2359</i>	WLS: <i>2905</i>	WLS: 469 7	WLS: <i>1971</i>	WLS:809
Dt 15:7-11	Jn 1:35-39	Pr 15:7	Col 1:21-23	Isa 51:7-8	Heb 2:14
LC TC:219-221	FC II:57-58	FC V:14	FC III:12	FC X:5-6	LC LP:19-21
WLS:1126	WLS: 3657	WLS: <i>2681</i>	WLS:568	WLS: 3847	WLS: <i>2134</i>

Christian

You boggle my mind by the power you give me, O Holy Spirit. Not only can Satan not harm me, but you crush him under my feet. Give me a recognition of, a respect for, and a trust in this divine force that is mine. But let my joy be found elsewhere. Lift my heart in gladness not by looking down to see who is under me, but by looking above to see that you have written my name in heaven through faith in Christ. Amen.

Student

As a student I regularly sit in judgment over what I read. I have to, O Lord, because the corruption of our human nature perverts minds to err, and so makes what anyone writes potentially unreliable. I thank you for giving me words that are trustworthy and true, words from you through your chosen messengers. What a blessing it is to come to the Bible, not to judge, but to learn. Amen.

Proclaimer

I do not see myself up to your call, O Spirit of the church. You send me to proclaim your knowledge, yet I know I have in me the heart of a fool, a heart which has its own ideas about what is true and necessary, ideas that are just plain wrong. Give me what I need to teach properly. Give me your wisdom. Put it on my lips, so others may know you. Put it in my heart that I may trust in and honor you. Amen.

Evangelist

You are so objective, O Lord. You do not cut anyone any slack when it comes to your law. With you, sin is sin, and there are no acceptable excuses. Give me that same uncompromising attitude and make my words as harsh as they need to be. You also make no demands when it comes to your gospel. With you, forgiveness is forgiveness, and there are no prior conditions to be met to receive it. Give me that same gracious attitude and make my words the good news you intend for them to be. Amen.

Advocate

Satan is not fussy, is he, O Lord? He will use anyone he can to oppose your truth and to turn people from it. Open my eyes to see that whenever someone perverts your ways he serves as a tool of the devil and as an enemy of what is right. Keep me from being such a person, and give me faithfulness to stand up for your Word. Amen.

Counselor

As your servant, dear Spirit, there is much I cannot accept, in myself or in those I counsel. I cannot tolerate or condone sin or falsehood in any form. In adiaphora, though, give me an accepting heart, mind, mouth, personality and demeanor. Help me to accept the weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Form a clear understanding in my mind between direction and advice, and grant me the grace to impart it unalloyed by my personal tastes. Amen.

Benediction

I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer Lord God, you know that I am surrounded by many dangers and that I often stumble and fall. Make me strong in body and mind, and bring me safely through all temptations. Amen.

Confession "Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?" . . . I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:3, 6

Absolution Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Hymn 395

Seek where you may to find a way
That leads to your salvation.

My heart is stilled; on Christ I build -He is the one foundation.

His Word is sure; his works endure,
He will o'erthrow my ev'ry foe;
Through him I more than conquer.

My heart's delight, my crown most bright,
Jesus, you are forever.

Not wealth or pride or aught beside
Our bond of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; your precious Word
Shall be my guide whate'er betide.
Oh, teach me, Lord to trust you!

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Sell
Ps 1	Ps 1	Ps 78	Ps 30	1 Ki 19:9-18	Ps 99
Mic 6:1-8	Dt 18:15-20	Jer 1:4-10	2 Ki 5:1-15	1 Co 3:1-11	Job 2:1-13
1 Co 1:26-31	1 Co 8:1-13	1 Co 12:27-13:13	Ro 12:16-21	Mt 14:22-33	1 Cor 1:10-17
Mt 5:1-12	Mk 1:21-28	Lk 4:20-32	Mt 8:1-13	Jn 4:15-26	Mk 6:45-56

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Pr 18:24	Jn 8:31-32	La 4:11-13	Heb 9:27-28	Jos 23:6-11	Lk 7:11-17
SC LP:19-20	FC VI:4	SC Pre:1-6	Ap IV:103	LC LP:62-64	Ap XII:88-89
WLS:1768	WLS:237	WLS:3576	WLS:2057	WLS:799	WLS:4317
Ge 3:20	Lk 21:8	Ps 78:1-7	Ro 4:4-8	Jer 51:10	Ps 55:22
Ap XXIV:27	FC XI:76-77	Ap IV:120-121	SA III/V:4	FC RN:8	FC V:11
WLS:4948	WLS:3170	WLS:2051	WLS:4718	WLS:3354	WLS:998
Ro 2:17-24	Ps 139:17-18	Rev 11:1-6	Isa 27:6	Jn 15:18-25	Pr 16:24
LC TC:167-169	Ap XXVII:55	Ap XII:66	AC XII:1-6	SA III/VIII:1-8	LC LP:106-108
WLS:22	WLS:4742	WLS:2949	WLS:598	WLS:4547	WLS:3253
2 Pe 3:11-13	Dt 13:1-5	Jn 14:12	Ps 110:2	2 Co 10:1-6	Isa 40:1-2
SA III/I:1-2	Ap IV:280	AC XIV	SC Cr:5	Ap XXIV:10	Ap XII:128-130
WLS:2064	WLS:1669	WLS:4296	WLS:2341	WLS:788	WLS:4857

Christian

O heavenly Father, you give great honor to motherhood. Our first father looked upon his wife as the source of life when he gave her the name, "Eve." I thank you for giving me a mother, and I ask you to fill me with respect for the unique role you give to mothers. Cause me to see them not only as those who give birth, but also as those who nurture children. Amen.

Student

Dear Lord, your thoughts are the epitome of quality and quantity. When I read them and contemplate them in your Word, nothing is more precious to me. Nothing is more vast than they. I thank you for revealing your mind to me in language I can understand. Keep me always from studying your Word in a mechanical way, or as though it were just another book. Grant me your Spirit that I might meditate on your thoughts frequently and with devotion. Amen.

Proclaimer

Dear Lord Jesus, what a privilege, what a glorious privilege it is to teach and preach your Word. I shudder in awe that I am doing what you did. And now you tell me that I do greater things! Keep me humble. Let me see the glory and majesty of the ministry of the Word, but cause me always to know and accept that all its splendor comes from you, never from me. Amen.

Evangelist

"One" is such a limiting number. You are the one and only God and Lord of all. You give me one lifetime and end it with one death. Fill me with faithfulness to use this one lifetime to proclaim over and over to person after person the one sacrifice that Jesus made to take away the sins of all. Use me to prepare many to wait in hope for his second coming. Amen.

Advocate

When I stick my neck out for you, O Lord, there always seems to be someone ready to chop it off. I get discouraged when I stand up for your truth and get condemned for it. Thank you for the encouragement your promise gives me, that you vindicate me, even when others I expect it from do not. Because of you I will be faithful in telling what you have done. Amen.

Counselor

I sometimes feel like being snarky and harsh to those who come to me with problems, especially those who should be able to figure things out for themselves, and, even more especially, to those who have failed to listen and act according to the sound counsel they were given previously. But you have called me to be a healer, O Spirit of comfort. Put pleasant words in my mouth, words that bring sweetness to troubled souls and healing to wounded lives. Amen.

Benediction

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer O Lord God, watch over me as part of your family of believers and give me strength to live a holy life day by day. Guard and protect me, as I trust in you, that I may resist and finally overcome the devil. Amen.

Confession If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he had done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die. Ezekiel 18:24

Absolution There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-23

Psalm 33

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Hymn 93

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

 Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 111	Ps 103	Ps 85	Ps 33	Ge 11:1-9	Ps 113
Isa 58:5-9	Job 7:1-7	Isa 6:1-8	Ex 14:13-22	Col 2:16-23	Hag 1:2-14
1 Co 2:1-5	1 Co 9:16-23	1 Co 14:12-20	Ro 13:8-10	Mt 13:31-35	Gal 3:5-14
Mt 5:13-20	Mk 1:29-39	Lk 5:1-11	Mt 8:23-27	Mk 4:26-32	Mk 6:1-6

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Jn 3:3-8	Ps 77:10-12	2 Co 1:18-22	Joel 2:28-32	1 Jn 3:13	Ge 37:29-35
AC XVI:1-2	FC VI:14	LC TC:158-160	LC Bap:10	Ap XXVII:18-19	FC VIII:87
WLS:4056	WLS:2267	WLS:2937	WLS:3917	WLS:2670	WLS:968
Jas 5:1-6	1 Ch 28:9-10	Lk 6:43-45	Ps 22:27-31	2 Ti 1:8	Jer 14:19-22
LC LP:71-72	LC Cr:63-65	Tr:60	Ap IV:34-35	Ap IV:344	SC Con:29
WLS:134	WLS: 4925	WLS:3574	WLS:1181	WLS:4990	WLS:2808
Job 40:1-8	Php 4:8-9	Mal 2:17-3:1	1 Pe 1:17-21	Dt 17:2-7	Mt 9:1-8
FC VI:22-25	FC II:10	SC Pre:26-27	Ap XXIV:56	FC Int:4-5	Ap IV:17-18
WLS:2807	WLS:350	WLS:4997	WLS:2213	WLS:873	WLS:4263
Isa 14:26-27	Jas 1:22-25	Ps 71:14-18	Mk 6:6-13	Ps 52:1-5	Gal 6:1-2
Ap XVI:6-8	FC II:89	Ap XII:53-54	SC LP:6-8	FC XI:3	FC XI:45-47
WLS:3960	WLS:3721	WLS:2898	WLS:4584	WLS:3363	WLS:1260

Christian

O Holy Spirit, where do you come from and where do you go? The way you work is too wonderful for me to comprehend, but the result of your work is mine to experience. I bless your name for granting me rebirth through holy baptism. Help me to believe and live like a citizen of God's kingdom. Amen.

Student

You know me, God, and you did not even have to study me. By your omniscience you constantly search my heart and understand my mind. Give me grace to seek you where you are found, in the temple of your Word. Cause me to understand the thoughts you have revealed, and so be prompted to be strong and to do your work. Amen.

Proclaimer

People sometimes drift off when I speak. They daydream and their minds wander. I have even seen those who have fallen asleep. This concerns me, but not as much as I am concerned about wearying you with my words, O Lord. Keep me from complacency about sin and being nonchalant about your justice. Do not let me accept or tolerate the idea that, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD." Cause me to regard the rhetorical question, "Where is the God of justice?" as blasphemy. Remind me that nomoclasm (denial of the law) inevitably results in evangeloclasm (denial of the gospel). Amen.

Evangelist

As a minister of the gospel, I do not need much, do I? Jesus, you sent the Twelve out with a staff and a pair of sandals, just enough to get them from one person to the next. I do ask for what you gave them as they went, though. I want power, power to drive Satan out of people's hearts. Make me a person who proclaims repentance and faith. Amen.

Advocate

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us to see oursels as others see us!" With these words Robert Burns urges me to adopt a different perspective on self-examination. But when I do this, O Lord, and see myself through the eyes of the world, how contemptible and hated I am. What a shock it is to know that the world despises me because I am connected to you. Make me to know this, and to bear this through the knowledge that you see me differently, with your eyes of grace and forgiveness through Christ. Amen.

Counselor

Disappointed hope and evaporated dreams bring such pain and misery to people. What despair overwhelms the hearts of people who have looked for peace and healing and found terror and malady! O Lord my God, you are the certain and only hope for all. For the sake of your name, do not despise the despondent. Remember your covenant and restore the hearts of those who are giving up. Amen.

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer O Lord God, I am your child. Hear my prayers so that I, who deserve to be punished for my sins, may be rescued by your mercy. Amen.

Confession Woe to you . . .! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matthew 23:27-28

Absolution Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for. Isaiah 6:6-7

Psalm 119

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

Hymn 283

Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning,
As a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor
To your holy, precious Word,
That each day, my whole life through,
I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure
And my heart's most precious treasure.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 119a	Ps 32	Ps 1	Ps 46	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 108
	Dt 30:15-20	1 Co 9:24-27	Jer 17:5-8	Ex 34:5-10	Eph 1:-14	Dt 34:1-12
	1 Co 2:6-13	Mk 1:40-45	1 Co 15:12, 16-20	1 Co 9:24-10:5	Mt 5:17-29	2 Co 13:5-14
1	Mt 5:21-37	Mt 2:1-12	Lk 6:17-26	Mt 20:1-16	Lk 10:38-42	Lk 6:20-35

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Lev 19:32	Jn 15:14-15	Pr 25:11, 13	2 Th 3:1	Dt 13:12-18	1 Pe 5:7
LC TC:287-289	LC Cr:51-53	FC XI:3	Ap IX:1-3	FC VII:28-31	LC LP:104
WLS:622	WLS:4373	WLS:2942	WLS:1392	WLS:4546	WLS:74
Mic 2:1-5	1 Jn 5:6-11	Nu 23:12, 26	Mt 12:31-32	Ps 101:7	1 Th 4:13
FC I:42	FC I:60	LC Cr:61-62	SC LP:6-8	SA III/VIII:9-13	Ap IV:37-38
WLS:2589	WLS:1656	WLS:4295	WLS:3020	WLS:1200	WLS:4155
Mt 2:13-18	Ps 40:6-8	1 Ti 4:6-7	Eze 33:10-11	Rev 18:4-8	2 Ch 19:6-7
Ap XXIV:29	LC TC:98	LC TC:274	FC XI:78	Ap Pre:10-16	FC II:65-66
WLS:3885	WLS:3150	WLS:2874	WLS:3882	WLS:1740	WLS:1084
2 Th 2:13	Ps 119:96	Acts 4:33	Ex 4:29-31	Mt 10:40-42	Ps 88:1-18
LC Bap:44-46	FC V:27	Tr:8	AC XII:1-6	LC Bap:60-63	LC LP:88-89
WLS:412	WLS:4561	WLS:3553	WLS:546	WLS:680	WLS:3252

Christian

Power corrupts, does it not, O Lord? Whether I like to believe it or not, I have power, even earthly power, over others. You have put me in a position where people trust me and will do what I say. Keep me from abusing my authority, from plotting evil as I lie in bed at night. Instead, give me your Spirit to use whatever power I might have to do your will and serve your church in love. Amen.

Student

Every part of me belongs to you, O Spirit of the Word. You live in me and have made me your temple, your dwelling place. Take my ears today. Use them to mark me as yours by opening them to hear what you have to say. You have changed my heart. Preserve that faith as I listen to your voice. Amen.

Proclaimer

I have learned to proclaim Christ crucified, O God, because you have revealed that this alone is the message that saves. I know that this has to be central in all I say to your flock. Do not let me stop there, however. Cause me to imitate the disciples and to continue to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus also, that those who hear me might know not only his sacrifice but also its certainty. Amen.

Evangelist

Dear Jesus, it has happened to me that I have, in my own mind, switched places with the gospel. I have dreamed of being famous and honored. Forgive my self-importance and pride. Lead me to put the gospel first, to pray that its message spread rapidly and be honored, and to find my joy and satisfaction in life by its success. Amen.

Advocate

Thanks to the blood of Jesus you do not charge admission to come before you, O Lord. But you do have a dress code. You permit no one to dwell in your house or to stand in your presence who practices deceit or speaks falsely. Put your words in my mouth that I might always speak the truth. Make me to see that the first test for a faithful and true minister is speaking faithful and true words. Amen.

Counselor

I am called a counselor, just as you are, O Holy Spirit. I am to come to the side of people and speak the words of comfort they need to hear. As a counselor, just like you I have a strange work to do, an alien task to perform. I must also unearth and admonish, judge and convict. Give me the fear of the Lord that, when called on, I might judge carefully and without partiality. Amen.

Benediction

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. Psalm 145:17-18

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer O God, I am helpless without you. Come, therefore, with your mighty Word and defend me from all evil. Amen.

Confession From within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. Mark 7:21-22

Absolution "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

Psalm 103

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

[He] forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

[He] redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with love and compassion.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

From everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him.

Hymn 82

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding Guest,
In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine, changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 103	Ps 130	Ps 103	Ps 1	1 Sa 17:42-51	Ps 63:1-8
Lev 19:1-2, 17-18	Isa 43:18-25	Ge 45:3-8, 15	Isa 55:10-13	Acts 16:24-35	Ex 32:15-35
1 Co 3:10-11, 16-23	2 Co 1:18-22	1 Co 15:35-38, 42-49	2 Co 11:19-12:9	Jn 8:25-36	2 Co 1:3-7
Mt 5:38-48	Mk 2:1-12	Lk 6:27-38	Lk 8:4-15	Mt 16:13-20	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
1 Pe 3:7	Ps 119:97-104	Jn 21:15-17	Pr 18:21	Php 3:2-4	Isa 60:22
FC II:88	FC VII:45-47	AC XXVIII:5-12	FC V:22	AC Pre:12-14	Ap XII:151-153
WLS:3456	WLS:210	WLS:5091	WLS:1839	WLS:97	WLS:3743
1 Ti 2;8-15	Ps 119:161-166	Jn 13:20	Isa 40:3-11	Lk 22:54-62	Job 6:1-3
AC II:1-2	Ap IV:265-266	FC I:54	LC SoA:20-22	FC RN:17-18	FC IX:3
WLS:4051	WLS:2275	WLS:2938	WLS:4474	WLS:3309	WLS:695
Ru 1:6-18	Mt 13:52	Ps 142:7	Eph 3:2-6	Eze 13:1-16	Ps 116:1-6
LC TC:83	FC II:25-26	FC RN:14	Tr:24	FC RN:4	AC XX:15-22
WLS:617	WLS:4812	WLS:3570	WLS:1543	WLS:3841	WLS:2827
Ecc 12:1-8, 13-14	Col 3:16	Is 28:7-13	Rev 20:1-13	2 Ki 10:18-27	Jn 18:9
SC LP:12-14	LC Pre:16	LC Bap:52-55	Ap XXI:19-20	Ap XIV:3-5	Ap XII:161
WLS:1795	WLS:184	WLS:4775	WLS:3019	WLS:604	WLS:4260

Christian

Heavenly Father, you set the lonely in families, and not just one family, but often two. You even give me inlaws through marriage. I thank you for the blessing of these second families. Help me work through whatever adjustments are necessary to form a bond with my in-laws. Give acceptance, understanding and love. Amen.

Student

You commend frugality as I manage your earthly possessions and you warn me against the love of wealth. Give me an attitude adjustment, O Lord, when it comes to your Word. Fill me with an unquenchable desire to possess all of its riches. Move my heart to share them as I join with others in worship. Amen.

Proclaimer

In his humility Peter dared not to claim that he truly loved you more than others, O Christ, and neither dare I. I too have denied you, even if I never warmed myself by a matutinal Jerusalem fire while a rooster crowed. Now you call on me to feed your lambs, to take care of your sheep, to feed your sheep. Give me true love for you because of what you did for me, and make me a faithful shepherd to your flock. Amen.

Evangelist

We do not really know what glory is, do we, O God? We manufacture artificial glory with every earthly conquest, prize and award. Then we see that the paths of glory lead but to the grave and that our cemeteries are filled with indispensable people. Reveal your true glory in Christ, the glory of your grace, redemption, forgiveness, and salvation. As a bearer of these glorious good tidings, cause me to lift my voice with a shout so that all mankind will see your true glory. Amen.

Advocate

I have a really difficult time with false teachers, O Holy Spirit. They put on a good show. They claim to be your representatives. Some make me ashamed of how poorly I know your Word. Give me perseverance in dealing with them, I pray, by reminding me that you judge them severely. Open my eyes to see beyond the whitewash to the flimsy walls they build. Make me a true prophet by leading me to say, "Hear the Word of the Lord," not out of my imagination, but from what you have given by inspiration. Amen.

Counselor

I wish I could say what you said, O Jesus. I wish I could say, "I have not lost one of those you gave me." I am convinced that, by myself, I cannot say it. But you do not give anyone to me personally. You give people to me as your counselor, as one entrusted with your Word. Lift my eyes from myself and my perceived strengths and weaknesses. Give me confidence that your Word will change hearts, attitudes, and lives. Amen.

Benediction

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him... May the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful. Psalm 68:1, 3

Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer Gracious Lord God, drive out the darkness from my heart that I may see your Son as my Redeemer and call on him to help me in my troubles. Amen.

Confession We sinned when we spoke against the LORD. Numbers 21:7

Absolution If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Psalm 71

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Hymn 236

Table 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
:	Ps 119b	Ps 133-134	Ps 92	Ps 71	Jnh 3:10-4:11	Ps 14
	Isa 49:13-18	Hos 2:14-16, 19-20	Jer 7:1-7	Isa 42:5-9	Heb 13:12-21	Jnh 3:1-9
	1 Co 4:1-13	2 Co 3:1-6	1 Co 16:5-9, 13-14	I Co 13:1-13	Mt 20:17-28	Heb 12:18-29
	Mt 6:24-34	Mk 2:18-22	Lk 6:39-49	Lk 18:31-43	Mt 16:21-23	Mk 9:30-32

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
La 3:34-36	Heb 4:2	Ezr 3:1-6	Lk 13:29-30	Job 8:1-33	Ge 39:20-23
Ap XII:169-170	Ap XXI:36-37	Ap XII:53-54	AtCr:26	SA III/VIII:1-8	FC XI:9-10
WLS:3987	WLS: 3665	WLS:2921	WLS:4574	WLS:3174	WLS:1045
Ps 8:3-9	Lk 2:15	Eze 33:30-33	Acts 23:11	Ge 50:22-26	Mk 5:1-7
LC TC:330-332	FC II:71	Ap XXVIII:20	Ap IV:103	Ap XII:90	LC SoA:71-74
WLS:661	WLS:4396	WLS:2899	WLS:735	WLS:4769	WLS:1924
1 Jn 5:16-17	Dt 4:1-8	Mt 12:33-37	Ps 96:10-13	1 Co 1:10	Hab 3:16-19
SC LP:1-2	Ap XV:29-30	AC VII:1-4	Ap IV:163	LC Bap:7-8	Ap IV:57-60
WLS:1696	WLS:782	WLS:5074	WLS:2331	WLS:846	WLS:3869
Mt 11:28-30	Pr 30:56	2 Co 4:3-6	Isa 9:2-7	Jas 4:11-12	1 Ki 17:7-16
Ap IV:236-237	FC VI:9	FC V:15	SA III/II:4-5	FC RN:1-2	FC I:13-14
WLS:4608	WLS:2937	WLS:1240	WLS:4985	WLS:2707	WLS:1148

Christian

I get so tired, Jesus. Sometimes I can even understand how you were able to sleep in a boat during that furious squall on the Sea of Galilee. I am not asking you for a bed or pillow or even the opportunity to sleep in some morning. I come to you to find rest for my soul. My heart constantly produces anxiety after anxiety. Allay each with the yoke of your promises, the yoke that relieves burdens and gives rest to the weary. Amen.

Student

If I had not heard it from you, O Spirit of truth, I could hardly have believed it. You speak of the gospel as having "no value!" I guess if the gospel can have "no value," the rest of your Word can have "no value" also. Never let that happen to me. Drive me into your Word. Cause me to read, mark, and learn it well. Most of all, cause me inwardly to digest it, to combine it with faith. Then "no value" will never happen to me. Amen.

Proclaimer

I have received a compliment or two in my ministry, O Lord. There are always those who are gracious enough to say, "I enjoyed your sermon," or "My child learned a lot in your class." Keep me from looking for praise or from tailoring my proclamation of your Word to garner it. Make me more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice. Make your words which I speak powerful to convict, to convince and to convey a change of heart and life, so that my people will not only hear them, but also put them into practice. Amen.

Evangelist

You are sovereign, O Lord, but I do not make that the epitome of my message. You rule all things, but that is not what makes the earth glad or the heavens rejoice. You judge every heart, but that does not fill any heart with jubilation and song until it knows that you reign and rule and judge in your righteousness, the righteousness you give through Christ. Make that my faith, my joy and my message. Amen.

Advocate

As one called to stand up for your truth, O God, I cannot help but judge others who deny it. Give me a heart and lips which judge justly, which do not slander, which love my neighbor as myself. Make me a fair and compassionate advocate for you. Amen.

Counselor

Life does not always seem fair, does it, O Lord? Many are puzzled when they perceive the innocent to be suffering and the guilty prospering. Use me to open their eyes to see beyond human standards of fairness to your promises of love and care. Help me to lead them to put their faith in you, who in all things work for the good of those who love you. Amen.

Benediction

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. Galatians 1:3-4

Last Sunday after Epiphany (Transfiguration)

Prayer Almighty Father, in the glorious transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the truths of my faith. You did this by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and by your own testimony from the bright cloud that covered your Son. Be merciful to me and preserve me as your dear child, that I may share the glory of your Son my Savior. Amen.

Confession Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Psalm 51:9

Absolution With you there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared. . . He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. Psalm 130:4, 8

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise the LORD from the earth; young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Hymn 95

How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.

Fulfiller of the past,
Promise of things to be,
We hail your body glorified
And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, We see your kingdom come; We long to hold the vision bright And make this hill our home.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 148	Ps 148	Ps 148	Ps 2	Ge 28:10-22	Ps 56
Ex 24:12, 15-18	2 Ki 2:1-12	Ex 34:29-35	Dt 18:15-18	2 Pe 3:14-18	Ex 40:34-38
2 Pe 1:16-21	2 Co 3:12-4:2	2 Co 4:3-6	2 Pe 1:16-21	Mk 9:2-13	2 Co 4:1-10
Mt 17:1-9	Mk 9:2-9	Lk 9:28-36	Mt 17:1-9	Jn 4:27-42	Lk 9:28-36

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
2 Co 10:17-18	Eze 12:21-28	Acts 11:25-26	Ge 4:26	Jn 12:37-43	Ps 121:1-8
LC SoA:39-43	FC VIII:96	Tr:30	Ap XXIV:11-12	FC X:3	LC Bap:56
WLS:606	WLS:4760	WLS:2984	WLS:749	WLS:4658	WLS:1531
Lk 8:1-3	Ps 119:54-55	Eph 4:11-13	Zep 3:8-13	Jude 17-19	Dt 4:25-31
SC Bap:11-14	LC Cr:23	SC Pre:14-16	FC III:57	FC III:7	Ap IV:118-119
WLS:2956	WLS:180	WLS:4969	WLS:1771	WLS:914	WLS:4122
Eze 18:30-32	2 Pe 1:12-15	Ex 34:29-35	Jn 14:6	Ps 4:1-3	Ro 8:18-25
AC XIX	FC 11:54	Ap IV:66-67	AtCr:2	Ap IV:375-77	FC IV:31-32
WLS:4305	WLS:2055	WLS:2930	WLS:5023	WLS:2939	WLS:953
1 Ki 2:1-4	Lk 6:39-40	Ps 40:5	2 Ti 4:16-18	Jer 20:7-12	Heb 5:1-3
LC TC:51-52	LC TC:95-97	Ap IV:5-6	FC XI:28	Ap VII/VIII:22	LC LP:103
WLS:1364	WLS:4376	WLS:3554	WLS:549	WLS:5097	WLS:1923

Christian

There is no place lonelier than to stand before you, O eternal God and Judge. No one can believe for me. No one can repent for me. No one can have a change of heart and life for me. But even there I am not alone, for what you ask of me you also give me. I pray to you, O Lord, you who promise that you do not desire my death, to give me faith, to give me repentance, to give me a new heart and spirit, to rid me of all my offenses. By your grace sin will never be my downfall. Amen.

Student

It is hard for me to admit, O Spirit of light, but I am blind. For me to lead others could only bring disaster for me and them because I do not know, I cannot see, the way. In my life and ministry, make me a student first. Take my hand and lead me in your revealed truth so that I might reach my hand back to lead others as a teacher fully trained by you. Amen.

Proclaimer

O God, when you called me to be a proclaimer you called me to be a people person. Enable me to teach great numbers of people every year of my ministry. Use the Word I proclaim to make and preserve your disciples. By that Word cause them truly to be Christians, in fact as well as in name. Amen.

Evangelist

O Lord, you have washed out my mouth, not with soap, but with your forgiving love in Christ. Grant me grace to testify about you with my purified lips and to serve the world with your gospel as I stand shoulder to shoulder with your people. As I call on your name, drive all fear from my heart through faith in your promises. Amen.

Advocate

I speak, O Lord, and it seems like nobody listens. I glory in your Word and people condemn me for it. They try to shame me by calling me "narrow-minded," among other things. But you listen, even though I do not deserve to be heard. Hear me now and relieve my distress. Amen.

Counselor

O Counselor of counselors, I did not ask for my ministry. You gave it to me. What a daunting responsibility, to represent people before God! What an awesome privilege, to represent people before God! All this I owe to you. Sanctify my weaknesses by using them to help me deal gently with those who are ignorant or are going astray. Amen.

Benediction

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples and guide the nations of the earth. Psalm 67:4

First Sunday in Lent

Prayer O Lord God, hear my prayer and help me in my need. Stretch out the right hand of your majesty to defend me from every attack of the devil. Amen.

Confession When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Psalm 73:21-22

Absolution Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29

Psalm 6

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?

Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping.

The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.

Hymn 106

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.
Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
He that drinks shall thirst no more.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 130	Ps 6	Ps 91	Ps 91	Ge 3:1-15	Ps 91
	Ge 2:7-9, 15-17, 3:1-7	Ge 22:1-18	Dt 26:5-10	Ge 3:1-15	Ro 3:27-31	Nu 20:1-13
	Ro 5:12-19	Ro 8:31-39	Ro 10:8-13	2 Co 6:1-10	Mk 4:1-15	Heb 1:13-2:10
de la companya de la	Mt 4:1-11	Mk 1:12-15	Lk 4:1-13	Mt 4:1-11	Jn 15:9-17	Mt 26:36-46

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Job 9:1-20	Eph 4:20-21	Jer 23:1-6	2 Pe 1:1-2	Jdg 7:7-25	Lk 12:4-7
SA III/I:1-3	LC Con:32-33	LC SoA:15-19	SA III/XII:1-3	Ap IV:232	Ap IV:21
WLS:3243	WLS:1015	WLS:3609	WLS:3015	WLS:914	WLS:3974
Ge 24:52-66	Jn 4:39-42	Pr 10:11	2 Co 8:9	Nu 25:1-18	Jn 11:33-35
Ap XII:48	FC II:9	LC TC:86	AtCr:27-28	LC Bap:60-63	FC XI:11
WLS:3981	WLS:1866	WLS:2927	WLS: 4698	WLS:3182	WLS:165
I Th 4:11-12	Ps 36:9	Heb 13:7, 17	1 Ki 8:56-61	Mt 24:9-13	Ps 10:14
LC LP:1-3	LC Cr:33	Tr:67-68	LC Bap:23-25	FC RN:9	AC XX:15-22
WLS:665	WLS:4379	WLS:2947	WLS:148	WLS:4537	WLS:2544
Rev 21:3-4	1 Ki 13:11-32	Mk 4:1-20	Ps 145:8-21	Col 2:16-19	Isa 12:1-6
FC IV:7	FC VII:48	SC Pre:7	Tr:67	Tr:44	Ap XXIV:71-73
WLS:3510	WLS:1657	WLS:3645	WLS:1407	WLS:1215	WLS:4211

Christian

You are God and I am not. You are so far beyond me in strength and wisdom that it cannot be measured. Though I cannot judge you, I trust you. Though I cannot perceive you, I depend on you. Give me faith always to rely on your gracious power. Amen.

Student

O Jesus, you have blessed me with many excellent teachers in my life, teachers who have told me about you. I thank you for them, but I thank you even more for being my best teacher. Keep me coming back to your Word that I might learn from you and grow stronger in my faith. Amen.

Proclaimer

I love to proclaim your Word, O Holy Spirit. But there is more to it than mere recitation of words. You call me to be a leader, which is more than I could ever dream of. You even tell my flock to follow me! Guide me in what I say and do that I might be faithful. Crush my sinful nature that I might never misuse my high calling. Amen.

Evangelist

It is the universals that are so gripping, O Lord. Your Word is full of them. You are good to *all* and you have compassion on *all*. *All* will praise you, that *all* may know of your righteous acts. Your kingdom endures through *all* generations. You are faithful in *all* your promises. Keep me from being overwhelmed by your universals. Instead, make them the foundation of my faith and the power of my ministry. By them reassure me of my salvation and fill me with the desire to proclaim your universal love to all people. Amen.

Advocate

When it comes to your Word, to standing up for its truth, numbers do not really matter, do they, Lord? Actually, one number does matter. You are the one true God and you have one true Word and you will never let it be destroyed. When I am on your side, even if I stand alone, I know how the struggle will turn out. Give me confidence in your promises and make me part of your victory over error. Amen.

Counselor

Emotions are not our enemies, are they, Jesus? You had them. You expressed them. You physically showed them, even weeping at the grave of Lazarus. What comfort is mine, and what comfort I have to offer, knowing that you understand our emotions from your own personal experience with them. Help me to keep this in mind as I counsel, that is, help me always to recognize that you give us emotions and that to express them is part of our humanity. Amen.

Benediction

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD. Psalm 4:6

Second Sunday in Lent

Prayer O God, you see that I have no strength in myself. Protect me from the evil that surrounds me, and from the temptations that rise within me. Amen.

Confession Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the LORD our God, both we and our fathers; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the LORD our God. Jeremiah 3:25

Absolution This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel . . . I will be their God, and they will be my people. . . they will all know me from the least to the greatest. . . For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Jeremiah 31:33, 34

Psalm 32

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" -and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Hymn 100

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
Our guilt and evil bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing.
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
Bears shame and stripes and wounds and death,
Anguish and mockery and says,
"Willing all this I suffer."

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soli
	Ps 121	Ps 73	Ps 42-43	Ps 25	Ge 22:1-9	Ps 42
	Ge 12:1-8	Ge 28:10-17	Jer 26:8-15	Isa 49:5-9	1 Co 1:18-25	Lev 20:6-8
R	Ro 4:1-5, 13-17	Ro 5:1-11	Php 3:17-4:1	1 Th 4:1-7	Jn 12:20-26	Col 2:1-5
	Jn 4:5-26	Mk 8:31-38	Lk 13:31-35	Mt 15:21-28	Jn 15:18-25	Mk 7:24-30

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Jn 8:7	Pr 1:1-7	1 Co 15:13-15	Jer 3:17	3 Jn 5-8	2 Sa 22:17-20
Ap XXIV:25-26	FC XI:14, 21	FC V:10	AC XX:24-26	FC XI:1-2	FC XI:45-47
WLS:4283	WLS:3834	WLS:2098	WLS: 4391	WLS:1709	WLS:590
Acts 15:36-41	Pr 1:8-9	Lk 3:1-3	Ps 52:8-9	Gal 4:17-18	Jer 31:18-20
LC TC:68	Ap IV:48-52	FC V:14	Ap XXI:19-20	Ap XXII:15-17	LC Cr:17-18
WLS:385	WLS:4731	WLS:2053	WLS:1265	WLS:4499	WLS:2810
Pr 11:16	1 Th 5:19-22	Mal 1:6-9	1 Jn 2:1-2	2 Ch 24:17-25	Mt 14:13-21
FC III:13-16	FC II:80	LC SoA:85-87	AC V:1-4	Ap XII:2-3	Ap IV:149-150
WLS:3494	WLS:240	WLS:3615	WLS:3009	WLS:142	WLS:4745
Mal 3:2-5	Jn 14:25-26	Dt 27:1-8	Mk 8:27-30	Ps 83:16-18	2 Th 2:16-17
AC XXVII:49-55	Ap IV:229-230	LC TC:69-70	Ap IV:262	FC RN:10	FC II:47
WLS:5087	WLS:3006	WLS:2907	WLS:4822	WLS:3366	WLS:1079

Christian

O Lord, I want to be respected, not out of pride, but for the sake of the office I have been called to. Give me your Holy Spirit to see that respect comes from kindness, not ruthlessness, and that esteem rises from what I do for others, not from what I compel them to do. Enable me also, through faith in Christ, to put that understanding into action. Amen.

Student

Dear Jesus, you did not choose me to write the Bible. You do not promise me the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, in the same way you promised him to the apostles on Maundy Thursday. Speak to me by his power through the Word which they wrote. Send him to me through the Bible and cause him to teach me all things and to remind me of what you have said. Amen.

Proclaimer

O Holy Spirit, you have called me to proclaim your Word. I could not bear to think that this was a useless exercise. I quake at the thought that I could ever be found to be a false witness about God. Thanks be to Christ! By his resurrection I have a true message, a powerful message. Keep me and the message I proclaim grounded in the empty tomb. Amen.

Evangelist

What an ephemeral world this is! Everything runs down and dies. But you, O Lord, enable me to make an eternal difference. Lasting even longer than an olive tree, your love for all never fails. Through the gospel you have placed in my hands you cause people to trust you forever with a certain hope. Make me faithful in praising your good name. Amen.

Advocate

Do I have to die to stand up for the truth of your Word, O Lord? You have not put me in that position—yet. At the same time I would like to think that I would be willing to. Give me, I pray, like willingness to endure, if necessary, gossip, backbiting, the rebuke of friends and relatives, angry words and vicious snarls, to speak your Word, even when those who need to hear it refuse to listen. Amen.

Counselor

Dear Father, counseling never seems to end. Some people keep coming back. Others who no longer seek me regularly are replaced by yet more who do. I praise you for the eternal encouragement you give me, and for the opportunity to give encouragement that never ends. Use your encouragement to strengthen me in every good deed and word. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Third Sunday in Lent

Prayer Almighty God, look with favor on my desires, and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend me, your humble servant, against all my enemies. Amen.

Confession There is not a righteous man on the earth who does what is right and never sins. Ecclesiastes 7:20

Absolution God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Psalm 143

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.

Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

Hymn 102

Enslaved by sin and bound in chains, Beneath its dreadful tyrant sway, And doomed to everlasting pains We wretched, guilty captives lay.

Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace, Nor all the world's collected store Suffice to purchase our release; A thousand worlds were all too poor.

Jesus the Lord, the mighty God, An all-sufficient ransom paid. O matchless price! His precious blood For vile, rebellious traitors shed.

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 143	Ps 19	Ps 38	Ps 73	Ps 25	Ps 40
Isa 42:14-21	Ex 20:1-17	Ex 3:1-8, 10-15	2 Sa 22:1-7	Gal 2:17-21	Isa 49:22-26
Eph 5:8-14	1 Co 1:22-25	1 Co 10:1-13	Eph 5:1-9	Jn 2:13-25	Ro 5:17-6:2
Jn 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39	Jn 2:13-22	Lk 13:1 - 9	Lk 11:14-28	Mk 10:35-45	Mt 12:22-29

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Dt 31:7-8	Lk 9:43-45	Ps 63:3-4	Phm 4-7	Isa 2:12-18	1 Jn 3:19-22
LC TC:20-21	Ap IV:297	Ap IV:5-6	Ap XII:75-82	LC Bap:7-8	LC SoA:55-60
WLS:1175	WLS:4931	WLS:3544	WLS:1556	WLS:4539	WLS:958
Jer 9:23-24	Rev 1:1-3	Nu 11:4-17	Mt 27:45-46	Pr 20:3	Mt 9:18-26
FC XI:56	FC II:16	AC XIV	LC Cr:1	FC VII:33	Ap XXIV:67
WLS:2176	WLS:781	WLS:4753	WLS:1738	WLS:105	WLS:4164
Mt 22:23-33	Ecc 1:12-18	Tit 2:7-8	Hab 1:12-13; 2:2-4	Acts 4:13-22	Ex 14:13-22
Ap XII:35-38	LC Bap:41-42	FC II:54	FC III:4	Tr:42	FC VII:69-71
WLS:4307	WLS:2452	WLS:2903	WLS:4511	WLS:1980	WLS:14
2 Ti 2:22	Pr 1:28-33	Acts 16:32-34	Isa 55:4-5	Mk 9:38-41	Pr 29:20
LC TC:145-148	FC VIII:53	FC XI:42	AtCr:2	Ap XX:9-11	SA III/III:1-6
WLS:1564	WLS:4809	WLS:3478	WLS:442	WLS:4542	WLS:3256

Christian

It has been said that "youth is wasted on the young," but I have seen my soul harmed, even wasted, by my youthful desires. Give me swift feet and a willing heart, O Lord, to run away from them. If youthfulness means an increased love of immorality, a greater obsession with power, a reduced willingness to learn or to make reasonable compromises, make me old. But it is not a matter of age, is it? Change my heart and fill it with the pure impulse toward righteousness, faith, love and peace. Amen.

Student

Dear Jesus, you speak clearly, but I listen poorly. My sinful nature inheres in my mind, hindering my understanding and keeping me from grasping what you mean. Enlighten me by your Holy Spirit so that I might much better understand and grasp. May I never fail to ask you in prayer when I do not comprehend. Amen.

Proclaimer

I need help, O heavenly Father. I cannot do it on my own. I am unable to feed, tend and care for the flock you have assigned me. The burden is too heavy for me. I ask you to do for me what you did for Moses. Send me people who will help me carry this burden. Give me those whom you know I need. I thank you for listening and for all whom you have already sent. Amen.

Evangelist

It pains me, O Lord, to see so many people running in the wrong direction. They imagine that they are so righteous and deserving of life because others look worse than they do. You have shown me that the only true path to life is the path of faith, and you have called me to be a herald of this revelation. Cause me to run with it in every direction so that more and more will know the way to heaven. Amen.

Advocate

Dear God of earth and heaven, sometimes people make me so angry. When I hear them exalt themselves, when I hear them spout their own words as though they were divine truth, I feel frustrated and enraged. How dare they! I am at a loss as to how much I can do, but I trust that you know and will deal with them according to your will. Keep all such arrogance and pride from my heart. Amen.

Counselor

I have a problem, O Spirit of truth and comfort. When people come to me with problems, I want to answer immediately. I have not always let people talk and so have misjudged their needs. I have not always taken time to think and have given poor counsel. You say that there is more hope for fool than for a person who speaks in haste. Slow me down and cause me to measure my words carefully. Amen.

Benediction

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer Almighty God, I confess that I deserve to be punished for my sins. But I ask you graciously to comfort me with your salvation. Amen.

Confession Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

Absolution The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

Psalm 38

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me.

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God.

Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.

Hymn 127

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt -None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

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	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
-	Ps 42-43	Ps 38	Ps 32	Ps 145	Dt 7:6-11	Ps 31:1-14
	Hos 5:15-6:3	Nu 21:4-9	Isa 12:1-6	Ex 16:11-17	Rev 5:8-14	Ge 41:25-45
	Ro 8:1-10	Eph 2:4-10	1 Co 1:18-25	Eph 3:14-20	Jn 11:46-57	1 Pe 1:10-16
44.00	Mt 20:17-28	Jn 3:14-21	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Jn 6:1-15	Jn 17:1-16	Lk 9:10-17

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Heb 11:1	Dt 5:1-3	Jn 1:15-18	Pr 28:13-14	2 Co 4:7-12	Isa 41:8-12
SC TC:7-8	FC X1:62-64	SC Pre:26-27	FC XI:57-59	Ap XII:141	Ap XXVIII:5
WLS:2 <i>147</i>	WLS:207	WLS:4 832	WLS: <i>1857</i>	WLS:1231	WLS: 450 1
Col 4:5-6	Ps 147:19-20	1 Pe 1:13-16	Dt 7:7-11	Lk 9:49-50	Ps 94:12-19
Ap XXVII:68, 70	LC Pre:3-4	Ap XXIV:80	AC IV:1-3	AC XXVIII:23-28	FC II:17
WLS:4125	WLS:2875	WLS: <i>2924</i>	WLS:4025	WLS:/989	WLS:1377
2 Sa 13:1-22	Jn 13:7	Pr 16:21, 23	Gal 2:15-16	Jer 1:17-19	Ps 6:1-10
LC TC:190	FC V:1	Ap XIII:10-13	Ap IV:291	FC RN:19-20	LC SoA:66-70
WLS:807	WLS: 4724	WLS:2282	WLS:977	WLS: 3623	WLS: <i>3145</i>
Ecc 2:1-11	Jn 14:8-11	Isa 55:10-11	Rev 12:7-9	Nu 10:1-10	Jn 14:1-4
SC TC:21-22	LC Cr:24	AC XXVIII:5-12	LC TC:4	FC 1:50-51	Ap IV:285
WLS: <i>3466</i>	WLS: <i>1666</i>	WLS: 3662	WLS: 3853	WLS:745	WLS: 5004

Christian

O Lord, the ancient Greeks taught that all is flux, nothing is certain. In this changing and unsettled world, you make me sure through faith. Open my eyes to see your imperceptible love and rest my heart with confidence on your certain promises. Amen.

Student

Why me, O God, why me? How come I have your Word when so many others do not? Why do I have it in its truth while so many Christians are following false prophets? What foolish questions I ask! Lift my gaze from my navel to my hands, to the Word you have placed there. Cause me to treasure this gift without distracting speculations about my supposed uniqueness and to focus my attention on its true uniqueness, its divine origin and its saving message. Amen.

Proclaimer

I need what only you can give, O Spirit. I need a wise heart. You want me to proclaim your Word, but I cannot do this faithfully without you living in me, blessing me with the ability to discern. Give me a heart of faith to guide my lips. Then and only then will I be your instrument to promote your instruction. Amen.

Evangelist

Sometimes—actually, almost all of the time—it seems like too much: to preach the gospel to every creature. Sometimes—actually, too often—O Lord, it seems too fruitless: that ancient serpent, the devil, looks like he is leading the whole world astray. Thank you for the encouragement that he will not win. He could not hold his place in heaven. Fill me with the power to trust that your gospel drives him out of human hearts too. Amen.

Advocate

I cannot take it, O God. I cannot take the pressures of standing up for you in this world by myself. I am but a jar of clay, hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Thank you for not abandoning me. Fill me with your all-surpassing power so that the life of Christ may be revealed in me. Amen.

Counselor

Earthly troubles are cipher for my flock—and for me. Why, O Lord, why do we have to endure them? Comfort my heart and fill my lips with your answer: love. Cause me to see all that happens to me and to others from the perspective of your love. Then, when anxiety is great within me or others, your consolation will bring joy to the heart. Amen.

Benediction

Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 2 Chronicles 6:40

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten my heart with your Word of truth. Remove from me all proud thoughts that I may give you the honor you deserve. Amen.

Confession I confess the sins we..., including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave. Nehemiah 1:6-7

Absolution Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:33-34

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Hymn 110

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Here might I stay and sing; no story so divine,
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 116	Ps 143	Ps 73	Ps 45	Ge 14:8-20	Ps 32
	Eze 37:1-14	Jer 31:31-34	Isa 43:16-21	Ex 3:1-15	Eph 2:1-10	Lev 16:29-34
and the second	Ro 8:11-19	Heb 5:7-9	Php 3:8-14	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:27-36	Heb 3:1-6
1	Jn 11:17-27, 38-45	Jn 12:20-33	Lk 20:9-19	Jn 8:46-59	Mt 23:34-39	Lk 13:31-35

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Isa 65:20-25	Lk 8:16-18	2 Ch 17:7-9	Lk 18:15-17	Ps 12:1-5	Ro 8:31-39
Ap XXIII:7-8	LC Pre:5-8	LC TC:274	SA III/I:11	FC XII:40	FC I:13-14
WLS:3712	WLS:3669	WLS:2908	WLS: 4569	WLS:1724	WLS:38
Pr 17:6	Ro 3:1-2	Mic 2:6-11	Acts 8:4	1 Ki 18:7-15	Mk 1:12-13
LC Con:22	SC TC:5-6	Tr:8	Ap IV:262	Tr:44	AC XXV:2-13
WLS:396	WLS:4387	WLS:2625	WLS:1482	WLS:3709	WLS:3279
Jas 1:9-11	1 Sa 6:19-20	Lk 1:17	Ps 65:5-8	Ro 16:17-18	La 1:11-22
SA II/II:8-9	Ap XII:68-71	SC Pre:1-6	SC SoA:5-6	Ap XV:18-21	Ap IV:303
WLS:2291	WLS:640	WLS:3626	WLS:3110	WLS:314	WLS:4332
Mk 15:40-41	Ps 86:11	2 Co 5:11-12	Zec 8:20-23	Rev 2:20-25	Jos 23:14-16
Ap XXIII:28-31	FC XI:14, 17	Ap XXIV:50-51	Ap VII/VIII:15-16	LC TC:263	FC IV:23
WLS:4097	WLS:2273	WLS:130	WLS:4393	WLS:2639	WLS:980

Christian

I still have the first earthly calling you gave me, O Father. I am still a child, with parents and grandparents, whether living or dead. Grant me power to bring honor to their lives and/or memories. As I have shared in their glory, help me to be a true crown to them. Amen.

Student

I want to know so much about you, O God. I have questions on top of questions, ones from my own heart and ones I am asked over and over again. But you pull the curtain back only so far. Restrain my heart from blasphemous curiosity and idle speculations. Instead, open my mind to understand what you have revealed, until I reach that place where I shall know as I am known. Amen.

Proclaimer

Lord, sometimes I get things mixed up. I know that my proclamation is not to be "wise and persuasive words." At the same time I am to try to persuade. Forgive me when I have put my words first. Keep such superficial preaching and teaching from my lips. Enable me to treasure your Word in my heart and, from the overflow of it, to speak. Amen.

Evangelist

Satan can turn anything on its head, can he not, O Jesus? It is my joy and privilege to be an evangelist, to seek the lost and offer them the water of life. Satan knows that mission work can also be an honor, and by its high status in the church he tries to lead people to denigrate other service as "maintenance" ministry. Help me to see the joy and the privilege I have to do whatever you call me to. Do not let Satan's lies affect how I think about where and how I serve you. Amen.

Advocate

Fear engenders weakness in me, O Holy Spirit. I hate the thought of being attacked, ridiculed, mocked and rejected. It paralyzes my voice and energizes my feet. Conquer my timidity with the tenaciousness that comes from faith in you. Make me willing to go where you lead, to speak what you have revealed, and to trust in your promised strength and deliverance. Amen.

Counselor

You teach me, O Lord, to confess that, of all the sinners your Son came to save, I am the worst. Yet my heart, and the hearts of your sheep in my flock, inevitably believe that, of all the suffering in this world, we have it the worst. Make me a comforter who does not try to deny sin or downplay it. Make me a comforter who recognizes its destructive power and who looks and points to you alone for relief. Amen.

Benediction

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

Prayer O God, you sent your Son to become a human being like me and to suffer death on the cross for my sins. Help me to be humble as he was humble, to endure as he endured, and grant me to share in the triumph of his resurrection. Amen.

Confession When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Romans 7:21, 24

Absolution Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Hymn 133

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

	Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
	Ps 24	Ps 24	Ps 24	Ps 24	Ps 8	Ps 145:1-12
	Zec 9:9-10	Zec 9:9-10	Zec 9:9-10	Zec 9:9-12	Php 2:12-18	Isa 45:22-25
	Php 2:5-11	Php 2:5-11	Php 2:5-11	Php 2:5-11	Jn 3:22-36	2 Co 4:11-18
_	Mt 21:1-11	Mk 11:1-10	Lk 19:28-40	Mt 21:1-9	Jn 12:12-19	Mk 11:1-10

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Eph 6:4	Jer 2:13	Acts 3:6	Isa 51:4-6	Mt 10:24-25	Job 10:18-22
LC TC:109-111	SC TC:5-6	FC RN:14	Ap IV:40-42	Ap VII/VIII:9	AC XXIV:30
WLS:810	WLS:4818	WLS:3351	WLS:1550	WLS:4050	WLS:1591
Lk 6:27-36	Job 28:12-28	Ro 1:8-15	Isa 1:18	Heb 10:32-39	Ge 4:6-12
FC II:63-64	FC II:52-53	LC Bap:52-55	FC XI:43-44	FC X:5-6	Ap IV:43-47
WLS:1784	WLS:1164	WLS:5032	WLS:2218	WLS:603	WLS:3963
Hos 4:10-14	1 Pe 1:10-12	1 Sa 8:4-9	Jn 11:47-52	Ps 123:1-4	1 Th 2:11-12
Ap XXVII:38	LC Pre:14-15	LC Pre:1-2	AC XX:24-26	FC RN:19-20	FC XI:6
WLS:5013	WLS:3710	WLS:6	WLS:4429	WLS:3188	WLS:1583
I Sa 26:8-11	Mk 4:24-25	Ps 115:17-18	Col 2:13-15	1 Sa 5:1-5	Heb 4:14-16
LC LP:85-87	Ap IV:351	Tr:25-26	Ap XXIV:32	Ap IV:389	LC LP:114-116
WLS:1192	WLS:4401	WLS:2967	WLS:1456	WLS:4415	WLS:3146

Christian

There is so much I want in life, whether I will admit this to others or not. You know my heart, O Lord. I tend to ignore things I really need, like faithfulness. So today I am asking you to grant this to me. Make me faithful to you and your Word, to my flock and my call, to my family, especially to my spouse. Amen.

Student

I am acutely aware that you do not save me by my works, dear God. But you do bless me through what I do, especially when I immerse myself in your Word. Help me to consider carefully all that I hear from you. Bless me in rich measure as I use your Word in rich measure, so that I who have will be given even more. Amen.

Proclaimer

Sometimes I wish I had more money. My selfishness makes me want more, but I also want more so I may have more to share. In my daydreams about dollars I miss what you do give, O Spirit. Even if I do not have all the silver and gold that I desire, I have a treasure to share in the name of Jesus. Keep me from knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing and cause me to prize my spiritual riches—and to share them. Amen.

Evangelist

Dear Father, you tell me that there is nothing new under the sun and I believe you. People who want to change the world will never succeed. But now you tell me that everything is new under the Son! And you promise me that, through him, I can change each person's world, from scarlet sins to snow-white righteousness! Cause me to see my purpose on earth in this. Amen.

Advocate

When the eyes of your enemies are on me, I lift my eyes to you, O Lord. When I proclaim your truth, it happens that people mock and reject what I say. Keep me from taking this personally, even if their attacks are directed at me. Have mercy on me and give me a heart of humility that I might always see myself as your servant. Squelch the presumptions of my sinful mind and silence the ridicule of the proud and the contempt of the arrogant. Amen.

Counselor

Lord Jesus, you are my perfect Counselor. You never succumbed to sin, yet you understand my weaknesses. Help me to bring the comfort of your counsel to troubled hearts that they might find your grace to help in their time of need, as I have. Amen.

Benediction

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Easter Sunday

Prayer Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Strengthen me by my Savior's victory to put away sin and lead a holy life. Amen.

Confession Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. John 8:34

Absolution Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

Psalm 118

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn 161

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah. Hallelujah!

It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life;
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly says
That death is swallowed up by death,
Its sting is lost forever. Hallelujah!

Series A	Series B	Series C	Historic	Synod. Conf.	Soll
Ps 118	Ps 118	Ps 118	Ps 118	Job 19:23-27	Ps 118
Jnh 2:2-9	Isa 25:6-9	Ex 15:1-11	Job 19:23-27	Acts 13:26-39	Jnh 2:1-10
Col 3:1-4	1 Co 15:19-26	1 Co 15:1-11	1 Co 5:6-8	Lk 24:1-12	1 Co 15:20-28
Mt 28:1-10	Mk 16:1-8	Lk 24:1-12	Mk 16:1-8	Mt 28:1-10	Jn 20:1-10

Christian	Student	Proclaimer	Evangelist	Advocate	Counselor
Ps 71:9	2 Ti 1:13-14	Jer 1:4-10	Heb 13:15	Ex 12:31-36	Lk 13:10-13
FC XII:9, 24	FC RN:3	AC VII:1-4	AtCr:1-4	Tr:42	Ap IV:301-302
WLS: <i>1759</i>	WLS:174	WLS: 3614	WLS: 3838	WLS:1206	WLS: 5008
Ge 1:26-30	Lk 18:31-34	Ps 22:22	Ro 15:8-12	La 2:5-7	Ps 66:16-20
Ap XXIII:14-17	LC TC:100-102	FC V:15	SA II/I:1-3	Ap XXIV:68	FC 1:23
WLS: 3967	WLS: 3722	WLS: <i>2897</i>	WLS: 4026	WLS: <i>1942</i>	WLS:55
Gal 6:4-5	Pr 2:1-22	1 Jn 4:13-15	Ge 9:12-17	Jn 17:14-16	Ps 142:1-07
LC TC:297-299	FC VI:6	FC VI:3	Ap XIII:8-9	LC TC:63-64	LC LP:19-21
WLS:73	WLS: 4368	WLS: <i>3423</i>	WLS:813	WLS: 3777	WLS: <i>1918</i>
1 Pe 4:7-9	Ps 119:144	Mt 10:1, 5-10	Ps 9:7-8	1 Ti 6:3-5	Isa 54:4-8
FC IV:15	FC XI:52-53	LC SoA:43-44	FC VIII:44-45	FC IV:36	Ap XI:6-8
WLS: <i>3458</i>	WLS:1198	WLS: 4295	WLS: <i>3018</i>	WLS:215	WLS: 4675