

Possible Prayer of Church for Quinquagesima Sunday * February 15th, 2026

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Most merciful LORD, Your Son was sought by blind Bartimaeus despite the crowd's objections. Increase our faith in Christ's unfailing love and His finished work of redemption, that we also would cry out to Him despite the taunts and discouragements of this faithless world. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

O God who summons a people for His praise from age to age, remember our Synod president; our circuit visitor; and all pastors, including our pastor. Through their faithful service, open the eyes of those blind to Your great love, that they would follow Your Son on His way, rejoicing. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

LORD of the Church, uphold all Christians in the confession of their LORD's Name and faithful reception of His Word and blessed Sacraments. Give wisdom to our two churches, to our lay leaders, our councilmen and elders. Give them discernment and equip them for their tasks that serve the Church. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

LORD of all, You bestow Your riches on all who call upon You. Bless parents with all wisdom as they teach their children Your ways, that all in the household may confess with their mouths that Jesus is LORD. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Remember our nation, O God, and all its leaders and public servants. Guide them into ways pleasing to You. Bless also the people of our country, that we would delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Loving Father, incline Your ear to all who are in distress of body, mind or soul ***[especially Faith & Our Savior Prayers]** ... and all those we each name and keep in our hearts in personal prayer.* Comfort them with Your presence, strengthen their faith through Your gracious promises, and grant them healing according to Your will. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy God, bless all here today who eat and drink the body and blood of Christ in His Holy Supper, that we would receive the Sacrament in repentance for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of our faith, the salvation of our souls and to Your glory. *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our ...***

Almighty and most merciful God, You urge Your Church to be strong and fear not. Inspire us to trust Your just judgment and expect the renewal of this world. Strengthen our hands and knees to pray without ceasing and to perform the works You have prepared for us. Lord, in Your mercy *LORD, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

QUINQUAGESIMA Luke 18.31-43 *WE ARE BEGGARS, ALL* 2.15.26 F.OS.L

GREETING *Dear fellow redeemed, who have been purchased and won back from the power of sin, death, and the devil by the suffering, death, and Resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ, God's grace, mercy, and compassion are yours, to be found only in this Savior.*

LUTHER: BEGGARS, ALL 509 years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. He wanted to debate the sale of indulgences with his fellow university professors. [So he wrote in Latin.] But a nameless visionary translated the theses into German, carried them to the printing press, and enabled their dispersion far and wide. Luther ended up with more than he bargained for, but he proved to be no coward in defending the discoveries he was making in Scripture.

FIRST THESIS: The truth of Luther's first thesis would reverberate throughout his lifetime, even finding expression in his last words. His first thesis reads, ***When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.***

And he was right. All of the Christian life is repentance. Turning from sin and trusting in the good news that Jesus saves sinners aren't merely a one-time inaugural experience but the daily substance of Christianity. The Gospel is for every day and every moment. Repentance is to be the Christian's continual posture.

LAST WORDS: Almost 30 years later, on February 16, 1546, Luther's last words, written on a piece of scrap paper, echoed the theme of his first thesis: ***We are [all] Beggars! This is true.*** From First Thesis to Last Words, Luther lived at the foot of the cross, where our rebellious condition meets with the beauty of God's lavish grace in the gospel of his Son—a gospel deep enough to cover all the little and massive flaws of a beggar like Luther and beggars like us.

LOOK-BACK[OR-AHEAD] Have you ever thought about what it would be like to meet yourself at a different age than you are now? Like, say, if 90-year-old self could talk to you as you are now. I wonder what insights my 90-year-old self would be able to give me, or I wonder if maybe I might be able to say anything that my 90-year-old self would need to hear. I would imagine that one thing for sure that my eighty-year-old self might say to me is ***"Enjoy your health, because it won't always be there. Enjoy being able to run. Enjoy being able to get in your car and drive anywhere you want. Enjoy being able to wake up in the morning without all sorts of aches and pains or the need to take a handful of pills."*** My eighty-year-old self would say these things to me because I take these things for granted now, and ninety-year-old Andy would want to remind me, [64-year-old Andy, to cherish health. **It's part of the tragedy of life that we don't appreciate things while we have them.**

'TIL IT'S/HE'S GONE In our text, we see that **the disciples didn't really appreciate the Savior when He was in their midst**. Jesus says, *"We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him, insult Him, spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. On the Third Day He will rise again."* This is probably one of those situations where, when the disciples were older and wiser, they wished they could go back in time and **wake their past selves up** to what was going on. The text says "The disciples did **not** understand **any** of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what He was talking about."

IN A FOG There are a lot of ways that we are like this when it comes to listening to Jesus. We see this all the time when we just let the Bible's truth just kind of wash over us without really listening or paying attention. This is the way things go with us sinful people in a sinful world. There is not one of us here who hasn't found Church boring at one time or another. **There is not one of us who takes advantage of every opportunity for Bible study that comes to us**. Even Jesus' Words that we just read seem to us like *"Ho-hum, same old same old."* *"Everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him, insult Him, spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. On the Third Day He will rise again."* The disciples didn't understand, and we don't really either. Even though we know that **Jesus' Words here contain everything that our faith needs for our eternal Salvation**, still, it's just not that exciting because it's the same thing we hear every Sunday. We've gotten used to it.

E.G. BEGGAR **We see an example for ourselves in the beggar in our text**. He was blind, but when Jesus came near to Him, he saw his chance and he took it. He yelled out, *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* He yelled out so loud that the other people around got annoyed with him and told him to be quiet. [But] **He didn't care one bit**. He knew his condition and he hated it, and so he yelled out all the louder, *"Son of David, have mercy on me!"* He called out in faith for help and mercy from **Jesus Christ, the Messiah**.

WE ARE BEGGARS This is an example that we all should follow, **because we are beggars too**. [See INTRO. ^] **Martin Luther's Final Words** on that slip of paper in his pocket when he died were: **"WE ARE BEGGARS, ALL."** How appropriate it is that we sing as a part of our Liturgy every Sunday, **"LORD, have mercy upon us."** Sometimes I think that this is the **most important part of the service**, and everything else in Church exists solely as window-dressing for it. Even the **sermon only serves to explain that prayer, why** we pray it and **Who** it is that we're praying to and **what He has done** to answer it. Because it is just like we

see in the text that **Jesus stops and answers that prayer**. It says, "Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, *'What do you want me to do for you?'*" **The man could take his pick!** What did he want from the Son of God who was born to be our Savior? What do **YOU and I need** from this Savior? What an amazing thing that we have in **prayer!** The real shame of our sinful complacency is that **we don't see the need to pray for things** because we realize neither the **down-trodden condition** our souls are in nor do we realize the **Perfection for which Christ has redeemed us**.

HE DID IT ALL Whenever **we look at someone and feel anger**, Christ has **redeemed** us from not only that particular sin but also from **the sin in our nature that made us want to commit it**. Whenever we are hurt by something unkind that someone says to us, Christ has taken that insult for us. Whenever we **get bored with God's Word or with the faith** that we have been given, Christ stood in our place and obeyed the Father for us. **The forgiveness that Christ won is there even before we receive it**. It is waiting for us to take hold of it by faith! Each of us is completely free from each and every sin that we will ever encounter so that we can do as it says in **1 Peter 5.7**, *"Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you."* [*Sola Fide = Saved by Faith Alone, Today's Theme*] It was **faith in Christ** that healed that beggar in our text, and it is faith that **heals us as well**, faith in Christ Who has redeemed us by coming into this world of sin -- He came here and reminded us that **No, there is even more**.

CREATED FOR LOVE God did NOT create us for sin, and He does not leave us in sin. Christ's love overcame our sinfulness in His obedience to the Father. He obeyed in our place and gives this obedience to us as our own. **The death He died was in our place so that He could take the full punishment for all the sin everyone has ever committed**. His Resurrection breaks the power that sin has in this world and we see God's promise that His Redemption is ours by faith.

REDEMPTION COMPLETE **This Redemption is complete**. If we were able to meet our Heavenly selves, I'm sure we would see a blessedness and perfection that earthly words cannot describe. Even the greatest hope and faith that anyone could have in this world doesn't come close. As **St. Paul** says in the **Epistle**, *"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."* [**1Corinthians 13:12**] We see a love described in that chapter that none of us can practice, none of us can live up to, one of the most beautiful descriptions of love that anyone has ever written down. Let us hold tightly to that love and that promise of redemption in Christ. That faith heals us now and forever. **IJ'N, Amen.sdg**