

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Lent 4/Laetare Sunday

March 11, 2018 through March 18, 2018

Catechesis Notes for the Week— What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors—This section speaks of the responsibility of Christians and the Christian congregations to provide temporal support for their pastors who faithfully preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments to them. Every Christian is called by the Gospel to “share all good things with his instructor.” It is a mockery of God when members of congregations turn a deaf ear to the Word of God and a hard heart toward the care of their pastors. Such neglect flows from impenitence and unbelief. Where there is faith there will be love, affection, and generous support of the Church’s pastors by her members. Chief among the duties of Christians is the faithful hearing of the Word of God when it is preached and taught by our pastors. Pastors receive the greatest joy in their ministry when the people of the congregation come eagerly to hear the Word of God when it is taught and receive it with joy and the hearty “Amen” of faith. The “Amen” of faith is confessed in the way in which the congregation takes care of her pastor. [Reprinted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: Jesus Is the Prophet Greater than Moses!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a

[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Psalm 132 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, God almighty, as David valued Your presence in the Old Testament tabernacle above all things, teach us to value Your divine service of Word and Sacrament as the place where You meet us with every gift of salvation for our protection, help, and comfort in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

Readings for the Week of Lent 4/ Laetare Sunday

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15	Gen. 41:28-57	Mark 11:20-33
Monday	Sun’s Old Testament: Manna & Israel’s Grumbling—Exodus 16:2-21	Gen. 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday	Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin—Mark 14:53-72	Genesis 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—Mark 15:1-15	Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
Thursday	The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Mark 15:16-32	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
Friday	Jesus’ Death and Burial—Mark 15:33-47	Genesis 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	Exodus 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31

The Catechism: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors (First Half)

(Preschool Children review the primary texts of the first three commandments)

What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors? The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.	First Grade + 1 Corinthians 9:14
Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.	Second Grade + Galatians 6:6-7
The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

Prayer for Hearers of God's Word:

O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You for the gift of pastors who preach Your saving Gospel and administer Your life-giving sacraments to us. Crucify our flesh and destroy all impenitence and unbelief in us, so that we who have received faithful instruction in the Word of God might provide generously for the support of our pastors. Teach us to believe that our pastors, who faithfully sow the seed and tread out the grain of Your Word, are worthy of their wages and are entitled to reap from what they have sown. Teach us to believe that preaching and teaching Your Word is the most important work that our pastors do, so that we might honor and support them in this work, live together with them in the peace of Your forgiveness, and hold them in the highest regard in love for the sake of the Gospel; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Jessica Franklin (deployed to Iraq), Christian McMiller (stationed at Ft. Irwin CA), Mark Meyle (stationed at Ft. Pendleton, Oceanside CA), and Scott Perry (stationed at Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville NC) serving in the military.

Rev. Steven Schumacher and the work of the Seminary in Ghana, West Africa.

Elsie Neumann, hospitalized at Elmbrook hospital.

Bob Heise, recuperating from surgery.

Bob Piper, under treatment for blood cancer.

Erma Suelflow, in therapy at Manor Care in Pewaukee.

Pam Vogt, mother of Mike Vogt, hospitalized for heart tests after a possible heart attack.

Dave Tetzlaff, father of Laurie Vogt, recuperating from double knee replacement surgery.

Ian Lang, a student at Arrowhead High School, suffering from Ewing Sarcoma.

Collect for the Week of Lent 4 / Laetare Sunday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" (stanzas 1-2)

743

Looking forward to Judica Sunday—the Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

Hymns: 529, 798, 438, 431, 547, 422

Genesis 22:1-14: Abraham was called by God away from idolatry to be the "father of many nations." The Lord promised Abraham that in his Seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The Lord called Abraham to faith and made this promise to him when he was 75 years old. He and Sarah had to wait for 25 years before Isaac was born. Although it appeared as if the son of the promise would never be born and that it was impossible for a woman of Sarah's age to ever have a baby, Isaac was finally born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90! The Lord kept His promise! It was a miracle of God's grace. Now, in the Old Testament reading for Lent 5, Abraham is called to sacrifice the very son for whom he had waited for so long. By the call to sacrifice Isaac, "your only son whom you love," the Lord reveals that Abraham's faith was, indeed, in God's promise alone! Because of the promise, Abraham knew and believed that even if Isaac were to be put to death, he would rise from the dead, because God had promised: "In your Seed ALL the nations of the earth would be blessed." The years of waiting had been used by God to convince Abraham that the Lord NEVER breaks His promise, and that the miracle of salvation depends entirely upon the Lord and His Word. Even if Isaac dies, he correctly reasoned, according to the promise he MUST live again. So much of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is revealed in this event: The object of the Christian faith is the promise of salvation in Christ; Abraham is a picture of God the Father who sacrifices His only Son whom He loves for us; the Son of the Promise would bring about the blessing of salvation by being sacrificed in our place; the Ram caught in the thicket continues the theme of substitutionary atonement and reinforces that, although Isaac is a type of Christ, he is not the Son who would be sacrificed for the sins of the world. The true Son of the Promise was yet to come. Finally, Abraham's confession to Isaac teaches us that the Lord Himself is the One who would provide the very Sacrifice that He Himself had demanded for sin. The letter to the Hebrews underscores all of this and the content of Abraham's faith with these words: "By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' accounting that God was able to raise him up even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense" (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Hebrews 9:11-15: The Apostle declares that Jesus is not only the faithful High Priest of a better and eternal covenant of redemption, but that He is also the very sacrifice for sin Himself: "Christ came as a High Priest...if the blood of bulls and goats...sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

John 8:(42-45)-46-59: Jesus teaches us that Abraham longed to see the fulfillment of God's promise in the sending forth of God's eternal Son. In this Gospel, Jesus clearly confesses that He is the eternal Son of the Father by applying the divine name given at the burning bush to Himself: "Before Abraham was I AM." This is why the Jews took up stones to stone Him. They believed He was committing blasphemy by applying the divine name to Himself. By this action they showed that they did not love God or His Son whom the Father had sent. Jesus said, "He who is of God, hears God's words...if anyone keeps My word, he shall never see death."