

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of First Sunday in Lent

March 10 through March 17, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 23: The Prayer of Confidence in Our Good Shepherd—King David was a shepherd. He knew how dependent the flock was upon its shepherd. His voice protected them, called them, led them, and provided for them. In Psalm 23, David proclaims that the Lord is his Shepherd. This is the confident confession of all the baptized faithful. Since the Lord Jesus is our Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, we have no wants. He has provided for all our needs so that we lack nothing. The gifts of His Gospel and sacraments are set forth in the rich imagery of “green pastures, still waters.” One cannot help but think of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism. Our soul is restored and renewed by Christ’s righteousness. This is the path of every Christian. We follow Him because He is our righteousness. Walking by faith in Christ, our righteousness, we will fear no evil even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. He comforts us with the rod and staff of His Word. He is present with us in the Sacrament. The Table of the Lord has been prepared for us in the presence of the enemies of sin, death, and hell. He anoints us with the oil of His Spirit in the words of absolution. Our cup overflows with the joy of the Lord’s free gift of salvation. In His Word and Sacraments goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life. For this reason we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.

Theme: Jesus Faced Temptation on Our Behalf.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Isaiah 55:11b

[My Word] shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalm 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, You are our faithful and Good Shepherd, who cares for us in all our needs of body and soul. Lead us, as You have promised, into the life-giving green pastures and still waters of Your Gospel and Sacraments, so that we might know the comfort of Your righteousness and abide at Your Table forever, even as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30
Evening	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29

Readings for the Week of the First Sunday in Lent

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28
Monday	The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:53—8:12	Gen. 6:1—7:5	Mark 3:1-19
Tuesday	A Man Born Blind Receives His Sight—John 9:1-12	Gen. 7:11—8:12	Mark 3:20-35
Wednesday	The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man—John 9:13-34	Gen. 8:13—9:17	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday	Jesus Is the True Shepherd—John 9:35—10:6	Gen. 11:27—12:20	Mark 4:21-41
Friday	Jesus Is the Good Shepherd—John 10:7-21	Gen. 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Gen. 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Gn. 16:1-9, 15–17:22	Mark 6:1-13

The Catechism: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

(Preschool and Kindergarten children review the primary texts of the first three commandments)

<p>What does God’s Word say to bishops, pastors, and preachers?</p> <p>The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Timothy 3:2</p>
<p>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Timothy 3:3-4</p>

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 3:6
He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.	Fourth Grade + Titus 1:9

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

Prayer for Pastors

O Lord Jesus, You are the Bishop and Overseer of our souls. You are the Lord of the harvest and have commanded us to pray for the gift of pastors to preach the Gospel and shepherd Your Church. Raise up men for the Office of the Holy Ministry who are above reproach, the husband of but one wife, who are temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, and able to teach Your life-giving Word. Deliver all pastors from the self-centered vices of the flesh. Grant them Your grace to manage their families well and to bring up their children in the true faith, with proper respect and devotion to the Word of God. Give them courage to hold firmly to the trustworthy message of the Gospel as it has been handed down to them and the wisdom to refute those who oppose it; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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

In Our Prayers this Week

*Elyse Marie Venti, great-granddaughter of Lyle and Jan Wollin, born March 4, 2019.
Friends and family of Phyllis, sister of Rosie Koplting, who mourn her death.
Mary, 8 year old niece of Beth Boehringer, diagnosed and hospitalized with leukemia. Marie Scheler in hospice care*

Collect for the week of First Sunday in Lent:

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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

“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken” (stanzas 1-4)

Looking forward to Reminiscere Sunday—the Second Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2019

Hymns: 693, 568, 564, 575, 713

Genesis 32:22 -32: *When Jacob returns to meet his brother Esau who had threatened to kill him, he is left all alone before the Lord. In this wrestling match we are taught much about faith in Christ. The Lord WANTS us to wrestle with Him in prayer and to INSIST that He bless, protect, and deliver us according to the promises of His Word.*

Romans 5:1-5: *Righteousness is imputed to us for Christ’s sake through faith in Christ, who died for sin and was raised from the dead to justify us, i.e., to declare us righteous on account of what He has done for us. This righteousness is received by faith. This is the foundation for the comforting words of Romans 5. Paul is speaking to the justified! “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Since we have been justified and have access to the grace of God through Christ, we can face all manner of tribulation and hardship.*

Matthew 15:21-28: *“Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old” is the opening of the introit appointed for this Sunday, called in Latin, “Remember me” Sunday! In the appointed Gospel, the Gentile woman from Canaan cries out to Jesus for mercy because her daughter is severely demon-possessed. Her daughter needs His help and so does she! Every experience in the account would lead her to believe that the Lord does not love her or care about her salvation. It is not true! Jesus’ test of this woman reveals to us that the true nature of saving faith is that it does not rely upon any merit or worthiness within the sinner, but solely upon the promise of salvation in Christ. This woman believed the promise of salvation made to Abraham. She worshiped Jesus as her Savior because she knew and believed that she was “an unworthy Gentile dog!” She called upon the Lord to remember HIS mercy, and not to help her for any other reason than the promises that God’s own Word had made to unworthy sinners. This is why Jesus says, “O woman, great is your faith!” Her faith was great because the object of her faith was Christ alone and His promise of mercy. We cry out to Him in our time of need in the same way: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies....”*