

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent/Invocabit Sunday
February 21 through February 28, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 107:33-43—A Meditation on How the Lord Governs Creation—The secular atheistic humanism of our day teaches us that man is powerful enough to control “mother nature” and to manipulate the planet in such a way as to control the weather and to stop hurricanes, drought, heatwaves, and floods. This is not only a lie, but a confession of the idolatry of a new kind of paganism, wherein modern man has almost a “religious belief” that he can control the planet and prevent the world from its inevitable destruction. Against this backdrop, the conclusion of Psalm 107 invites us to confess that the LORD is both God and the Creator and Sustainer of this world. When “natural disasters” happen, according to the psalmist, it is the LORD who is in charge but for His own purposes that often confound and contradict human reason. Psalm 107 invites us to trust in the LORD as Creator and Savior of His people and to rely upon Him when we struggle under the curse of the fall and the distress this brings upon the earth: “He turns rivers into a wilderness, and watersprings into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings. There He makes the hungry dwell...” Let us humbly exercise the dominion God has entrusted to mankind at creation but let us never think that we can play God. Many things are beyond our control. As Christians, we are called to trust in the LORD above all things. The curse of the fall exists for a reason. The sweat, toil, and suffering are sent by God as an instrument through which, by the Word of truth, we are called to repentance and faith in Christ alone for life and salvation.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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 Is Our Savior from Satan!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;
and the bread that I shall give is My flesh,
which I shall give for the life of the world.

Psalm 107:33-43 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, we give thanks to You for Your divine providence whereby You sustain the creation according to Your good and gracious will. Remove all idolatrous beliefs from our hearts and give us true and abiding faith in You and in Your good and gracious will for the world in which we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	
Monday	The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-15, 31	John 6:26-40
Tuesday	The Water from Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday	Midweek: Cain Murders Abel—Genesis 4:1-15 St. Matthias, Apostle—Acts 1:15-26	1 John 3:10-16
Thursday	The Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-20	Hebrews 10:11-25
Friday	Touching the Hem of His Garment—Luke 8:40-56	John 6:41-58
Saturday	Jacob Wrestles with the Lord—Genesis 32:22-32	Romans 5:1-5

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar— Where is this written? What is the benefit...? How can bodily eating...?

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”	Second Grade + Kindergarten +
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<p><i>What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?</i> These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?</i> Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”</p>	Second Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, Daily Themes for Prayer (LSB p. 294), In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects for the Week

Prayer for Faith in Jesus’ Words in the Sacrament of the Altar

O Lord Jesus, by Your words “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” You teach us to believe that in the Sacrament “forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words.” We give thanks to You for the precious gift of Your body and blood. Forgive us for taking this gift for granted, for doubting Your promises, and for trusting in our own merits as we approach the altar. Give us firm faith in Your words that we might know with certainty that where there is forgiveness of sins in Your body and blood, that there is also life and salvation for us and for all who believe in Your promises; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Before Receiving the Lord’s Supper

Lord God, heavenly Father, I come to the altar at Your invitation to receive the holy body and the precious blood of my Savior Jesus Christ. I confess to You all my sins. I am heartily sorry for them. For Jesus’ sake, I forgive my enemies and all who have sinned against me. I believe that You give me the forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life and salvation through the body and blood of my Savior. Through the Lord’s Supper strengthen my faith in Christ, increase my love for others, grant me faithfulness in my vocation, and give me the joyous hope and confidence of eternal life and salvation in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: *David Ernst (2/23), Melovin Swistoski (2/24), Sarah Piper (2/26).*

New Birth: *Simeon Luke Schneider, son of Joe and Elisabeth Schneider, born February 16.*

The sick: *Larry Martin recovering from a broken leg. Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.*

Tom Pinzl, Jim Nitzsche, Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Jill Franklin, and Allison Witte in treatment for cancer.

Collect for the week of The First Sunday in Lent/ Invocabit Sunday:

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.

Collect for the Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle:

Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, 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

“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” (stanzas 1-2, 4)

Looking forward to Reminiscere Sunday— The Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

Hymns: 521, 656, 607, 418, 454

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 5:1-11: *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....”*