

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent/Oculi Sunday
March 7 through March 14, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 109:1-21—A Prayer for God to Judge False Witnesses—False witness includes any form of gossip, slander, or malicious statement that destroys another person and refuses to show mercy. The psalmist is attacked by false witnesses. Instead of lashing out against them, he commends them to God to judge them for what they have done and continue to do. It may seem off putting that the psalm would actually pray for God's judgment upon his accusers. Would not the psalmist and God Himself desire their repentance? Yes! But such repentance often comes through the offender experiencing the same judgement his false witness gives to others. As we pray Psalm 109 we think of our Lord who was falsely accused, but appealed His cause to God. We remember Judas who vacated his apostolic office by his betrayal and impenitence. Finally, we remember His mercy which never fails to preserve and rescue our faith and life, even from the lying lips of those who speak against us.

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: Blessed Are Those Who Hear the Word of God and Keep It!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

Psalm 109:1-21 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, as Jesus remained unafraid when false witnesses rose up against Him but commended Himself to Your merciful judgment, so teach us to trust in You and defend us from every lying word that is spoken against us; through the 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	A House Divided—Luke 11:14-28	
Monday	Palm Sunday—Mark 11:1-19	Zechariah 9:9-12
Tuesday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—Mark 14:1-11	Isaiah 49:13-18
Wednesday	Midweek: Herod Murders Children—Matthew 2:7-18	1 John 2:7-11
Thursday	Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Mark 14:12-31	Zechariah 13:7-9
Friday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Mark 14:32-52	Psalm 88
Saturday	Many Shall Come from Afar—Isaiah 49:8-13	Acts 2:41-47

The Catechism: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

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

<p><i>What does God's Word say to bishops, pastors, and preachers?</i></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>
<p>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.</p>	<p>Third Grade + 1 Timothy 3:6</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade + Titus 1:9</p>

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.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Kendra Knoerr (3/6), Rev. Dustin Anderson (3/8), Timothy Haga (3/10), Amber LaFore (3/11).

Those who serve in the military: John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Jessica Franklin (Air Force); Mark Meyle (Marines); Robert Haga (Marines) and Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves).

The sick: Deacon Matthew Gatchell, undergoing sinus surgery on Wednesday Paul Schmidt, hospitalized in Arizona with multiple health issues; Tom Aufdemberge, recovering from a concussion after a bicycle accident; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Cancer treatment: Dwayne Bira, brother-in-law of Dave Aumann; Tom Pinzl, Jim Nietzsche, Brian Nienabor, Jill Franklin, Allison Witte, and Roger Laubenstein.

Collect for the week of The Third Sunday in Lent / Oculi Sunday:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

"Baptismal Waters Cover Me" (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to Laetare Sunday— The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Hymns: 571, 625, 743, 636, 423

Isaiah 49:8-13: This prophecy from Isaiah begins with a word from God the Father to His Son: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth." The Father promised to establish His Son as Savior of the world, to give release to those bound in the prison house of sin and to feed those who hunger and thirst for salvation. It is a comforting prophecy of the Lord's kingdom of grace in which "they shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them." For all this we sing and rejoice in the Lord for His everlasting comfort and mercy.

Acts 2:41-47: This reading from the book of Acts describes how the life of the baptized faithful in the church will be characterized by regular and faithful receiving of the Lord's Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service. It is the Apostolic doctrine that creates and binds us together in the fellowship of faith in Christ; and it is in the Lord's Supper and in the Church's liturgy (the prayers) that this common faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated. Out of this Divine Service, received in faith, the church engages faithfully in acts of mercy, taking care of those who had need within the household of faith and regularly celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar.

John 6:1-15: Jesus fed the 5,000 at the time of the Passover. Great multitudes came to Him with all their diseases and maladies. They came to hear His preaching and to receive the hope of salvation. All of Jesus' miracles were wonderful signs of the salvation He came to bring. By feeding the 5,000 at the time of the Passover, He showed them that HE was the fulfillment of the Passover. He would fulfill the Law. He would give them freedom from the slavery to sin, death, and the power of Satan. He is the source of life—the very Bread of Life Himself. In spite of this, they misinterpreted His miracle. Instead of seeing Him as the Savior from all their sins and the devastating effects that sin brought upon this world, they saw Him as a "bread king" who could meet their every self-centered demand. He was "the Prophet greater than Moses," but they treated Him the same way that Moses was treated. They would grumble and complain if they didn't get their way. In faithfulness to the promises of the Gospel, Jesus continued to do what the Father had called Him to do. He would go to the cross for a sinful and rebellious people. It is only after His resurrection, that those who confessed Him to be the Messiah would understand more clearly the nature of His work. In the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 we see a foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper. In this sign He calls us to believe in Him and to worship Him in humble and contrite faith.