

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent/Laetare Sunday
March 14 through March 21, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 109:21-31—If the world hates us, the Lord will take care of us—Psalm 109 concludes with the psalmist placing his confidence in the Lord and His mercy when all the world and false accusers are set against him. The psalmist confesses that he is totally needy and as fleeting as a shadow. There is no soundness in him of his own making. He is dependent upon the Lord His God for help. When the world attacks him, the Lord upholds him. When the world curses him, the Lord blesses Him. No one else may believe that he is the Lord’s man, but the Lord’s mercy saves him and will vindicate him before his enemies. “I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; Yes, I will praise Him among the multitude. For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those who condemn him.”

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: The Lord Has Comforted His People!

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.
8 Love never fails.**

Psalm 109:21-31 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, when the world is set against me and attacks my faith, protect me from harm, vindicate Your cause, and grant me the courage to confess Your holy name and sing Your praises, through Jesus Christ, my 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 Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15	
Monday	Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin—Mark 14:53-72	Psalm 35:17-28
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—Mark 15:1-15	Isaiah 50:4-10
Wednesday	Midweek: Herod Antipas Murders John the Baptist—Mark 6:14-29	Romans 12:9-21
Thursday	The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Mark 15:16-32	Psalm 69:16-30
Friday	Jesus’ Death and Burial—Mark 15:33-47	Psalm 22
Saturday	St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus—Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	Hebrews 9:11-15
	The Sacrifice of Isaac—Genesis 22:1-14	

The Catechism: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors (first half)

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

<p><i>What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors?</i></p> <p>The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Corinthians 9:14</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Second Grade + Galatians 6:6-7</p>
<p>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.”</p>	<p>Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:17-18</p>

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

Baptismal Birthdays: John Trapp (3/17), Steven LaSage, Sarah Prom, David Nitzsche, Jeanine Walentoski (3/18), Bonnie Zeretzke, Margit Rhode (3/19).

Wedding Anniversaries: John and Sam Bender (3/14).

The sick: Kurt Ruhnau, undergoing heart bypass surgery on Monday; Carol Bender hospitalized for a cardiac arrhythmia; Deacon Matthew Gatchell, awaiting sinus surgery; Paul Schmidt, hospitalized in Arizona with multiple health issues; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

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

Collect for the week of The Fourth Sunday in Lent / 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.

Collect for the Feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus (March 19)

Almighty God, from the house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother, Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding Your counsel and obeying Your commands; 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

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

743

Looking forward to Judica Sunday— The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021

Hymns: 438, 430, 564, 428, 429, 431

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.

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.

John 8:42-59: 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."