

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For Holy Week / Palm Sunday

March 28 through April 4, 2021

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 111—A Prayer of Praise of the Lord and Meditation upon His Works—Psalm 111 is a psalm of praise to the LORD for His saving works, His compassion and mercy, and for His enduring righteousness and justice in Christ which is the source of our salvation from sin. The psalmist extolls meditation upon the LORD'S works and Word: "the works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them." Preaching according to the covenant or promise of salvation in Christ is held forth for His people to rejoice in: "He has declared to His people the power of His works...He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever." The catechism explanation to the First Commandment also reflects the teaching on faith in the last verse of the psalm: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."

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: He Became Obedient to the Death of the Cross!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 8:9

**You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
that you through His poverty might become rich.**

Psalm 111 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: We praise You, O Lord with our whole heart. You have kept Your covenant of salvation to us in Christ. Your works are great. Your Word is true. Bless our meditation and study of all that You have done for us that we might rightly praise and magnify Your holy name. Give us holy fear of You that we might gain a heart of wisdom and understanding, and abide in the comfort of Your salvation, 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	93
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	136, 117

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Passion According to Mark—Mark 14:1—15:47	
Monday	Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest—John 18:1-27	Lamentations 3:19-33
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—John 18:28-40	Isaiah 52:4-10
Wednesday	Midweek: The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace—Daniel 3:1-25	1 John 5:1-5
Thursday	Jesus Is Crucified—John 19:1-24	Psalm 22
Friday	Good Friday: Jesus' Side Is Pierced—John 19:25-42	Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Saturday	Daniel Is Cast into the Den of Lions—Daniel 6:1-24	1 Peter 3:17-22

The Catechism: Of Civil Government

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth through tenth commandments.)

<p>Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor</p>	Everyone
<p><i>What does God's Word say of Civil Government?</i> Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.</p>	First Grade + Romans 13:1
<p>Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.</p>	Second Grade + Romans 13:2

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade + Romans 13:3
For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	Fourth Grade + Romans 13:4

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

Prayer for the Civil Government:

Heavenly Father give us civil authorities who will serve with integrity and faithfulness, for the maintenance of justice, the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of all those who do well. Grant all Christians faith in Your gracious providence, so that we might honor the civil authorities and contribute to the common welfare of our nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Cyndi Ruhnau, Geri Zaretzke, Dale Stratil (3/30), Amanda Nelson (3/31), Linda Milos, Ava Damato (4/1).

Wedding Anniversaries: Randy and Pam Kirk (4/3).

The sick: Carol Bender recovering from a fall; Jon Bruss, recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery; Kurt Ruhnau, recovering from heart bypass surgery; Deacon Matthew Gatchell, scheduled for sinus surgery this week; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Cancer treatment: Rev. Timothy Kinne, beginning treatment for multiple myeloma; Erwin Cabrera, son-in-law of Carol Bender, receiving treatment for bladder cancer; Tom Brass, friend of Bob and Geri Zaretzke; Dwayne Bira, brother-in-law of Dave Aumann; Tom Pinzl, Jim Nitzsche, Brian Nienabor, Jill Franklin, Allison Witte, and Roger Laubenstein.

Collect for Holy Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same 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

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (stanzas 1-4)

451

Looking forward to The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Week

April 4, 2021

Hymns: 459/460, 458, 457, 741, 482, 461, 481

Job 19:23-27: The Old Testament Prophet Job lived perhaps 2,000 years before our Lord's death and resurrection. His book chronicles the trials and tribulations that he endured. He had been a wealthy man and a faithful believer in the Lord, but Satan attacked him and brought all kinds of suffering into his life. He lost his wealth, his property, and his physical health. His children were killed, his wife renounced the faith, and his friends turned against him. Job was a man of unspeakable sorrow who endured unbearable spiritual, emotional, and physical pain. In this condition, the Old Testament Reading for Easter Sunday records Job's confession of faith in Christ: "I know that my Redeemer lives." Stripped of his health and every earthly support, the only thing that was left was the living faith that God had worked in his heart. This faith was made resilient through the things that he suffered and boldly confessed the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the body. "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold...How my heart yearns within me!" This faith and hope is the ultimate comfort for every Christian.

1 Cor. 15:51-57: The problem of sin's corruption has affected us at every level of our being. But Jesus' forgiveness, earned for us by His suffering and death upon the cross, will result in a complete transformation of our nature in the resurrection on the last day. Our mortal flesh will put on immortality and our corruptible flesh will put on incorruption, then the corruption of sin will be no more. None of the effects of sin will be manifest in us in the slightest. Death will forever be destroyed, and we will live eternally in the victory that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark 16:1-8: The scene of our Lord's resurrection begins in a garden in the early morning on the first day of the week. The evangelist intends to remind us of creation and the Garden of Eden. After God finished His work on the sixth day of creation, man quickly turned away from the Lord's Word and plunged himself and all of creation into sin and death. After Jesus finished His work on the sixth day of Holy Week, Jesus quickly rose from the dead and the new creation was born out of the forgiveness of sins that Jesus earned for us in His death. The women's question, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" indicates that they and we were powerless to rescue ourselves from sin and death. Only Jesus could roll away the stone of death because only Jesus could conquer sin and vanquish the age-old Serpent's power to condemn. The message of the resurrection Gospel is that Jesus is risen from the dead to give forgiveness, new life, and salvation to sinners. This message was to be proclaimed to all His disciples, and especially to broken and contrite sinners, like Peter, who had left the courtyard of the High Priest in misery and shame. "Go and tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is risen from the dead!"