

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Sexagesima Sunday

February 20 through February 27, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 147: The Beauty of Singing Praise to the Lord—Praise of the Lord is beautiful because true praise confesses the goodness of the Lord in all His acts under the three articles of the Creed which are understood to be performed for the benefit of His Church. Under the Third Article work of the Holy Spirit, the Lord builds up Jerusalem (the Church) and gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds with forgiveness and mercy. He calls to faith by His Word and blesses the children of the Church with peace and the finest wheat in the Sacrament of the Altar. Under the First Article work of the Father, the Lord covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass to grow, gives food to all His creatures, and gives snow, hail, and cold to replenish the earth. All of the Lord's blessing are made possible by the redeeming work of Christ under the Second Article of the Creed. Our praise flows forth in a confession of faith in God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Lord "does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy."

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: Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet and a Light to My Path!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 6:54

Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day.

Psalm 147 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, grant us grace to ever sing Your praise for all that You have done and continue to do for us and for Your holy church throughout the world. Heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. Send out Your Word to comfort and sustain us. Teach us to fear You and to hope in Your mercy, for 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	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49
Evening	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Luke 8:4-15	
Monday	Daniel and the Lions' Den—Daniel 6:1-23	1 Peter 4:7-11
Tuesday	Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts—Daniel 7:1-28	1 Peter 4:12-19
Wednesday	Daniel's Prayer—Daniel 9:1-6, 17-27	1 Peter 5:1-14
Thursday	Daniel's Vision of a Man—Daniel 10:1—11:4 (12:1-13) St Matthias, Apostle—Acts 1:15-26	2 Peter 1:1-4
Friday	The Proclamation of Cyrus the King of Persia—2 Chron. 36:22-23	2 Peter 1:5-15
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Isaiah 35:3-7	1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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

<i>Where is this written?</i> 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 +
<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.	First Grade +

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

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.”

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: Simeon Schneider (2/21), Melovin Swistoski (2/24), Sarah Piper (2/26).

Thanksgiving: Birth of Abigail Jo Bender, together with her mother Samantha; Bonnie Zeretzke for 90 years as a Baptized Child of Christ; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: Alex Carus having heart surgery on Monday, Feb 21; Amy Bruss, daughter-in-law of Jon and Marty Bruss, dealing with extensive recovery following a stroke; Harold Kampin at Linden Grove; Rev. Duwayne Schneider, in assisted living.

Cancer Treatment: Nancy Thiele (leukemia); Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer); Jim Nitzsche (lung cancer); James Loker (liver cancer); Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).

Those Who Mourn: The family of Ralph Fischer. Ralph died in the Lord on February 18.

Collect for the week of Sexagesima Sunday:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for the feast of St. Matthias, Apostle: (February 24)

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

“One Thing’s Needful” (stanzas 1, 3-5)

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Looking forward to Quinquagesima Sunday

February 27, 2022

Hymns: 942, 948, 849, 953, 960, 434, 629, 693, 685, 938

Isaiah 35:3-7: The promise that the Lord will come and save us is of inestimable comfort! It is the promise of His grace to us in the Gospel, by which our sins are entirely forgiven on the basis of His saving work, that weak hands are strengthened, feeble knees are made firm, and fearful hearts are comforted. “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute shall sing for joy.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13: The love of Christ that moved Him to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world is described by St. Paul. It is the love of God in Christ that “suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” Love is called the greatest of the three—faith, hope, and love—because without Christ’s love for us we would have nothing in which to believe and hope. Out of the reception of this love of Christ every spiritual blessing in Christ flows forth from the heart and life of a Christian.

Luke 18:31-43: Jesus spoke clearly about His passion, death, and resurrection, yet “these things were hidden” from the disciples, so that they did not understand His words. It was necessary that the Son of Man suffer and die alone, for salvation from sin, death, and hell is entirely the work of our Lord. It must be received by us as a gift alone or it cannot be received at all. For their benefit the disciples were prevented from knowing these words, lest anyone of them boast in his superior knowledge or understanding. The mysteries of the faith are revealed to the blind by the Spirit of God, and so, Jesus has mercy upon blind Bartimaeus, opening his eyes, in token that the mysteries of salvation are revealed to us so that we might believe in the Lord and give all praise and glory to God.