

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent/Oculi Sunday
March 20 through March 27, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Week of Oculi— “My Eyes Are Ever toward the Lord”—The Latin title for this week in Lent is “Oculi” which means “eyes”. It is taken from the Introit for the Sunday, “My eyes are ever toward the Lord.” During the pain, suffering, sin, and afflictions of our life—some of our own making and some through no fault of our own—faith turns to the Lord and cries out to Him for rescue, forgiveness, and peace:

My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted.
To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You;
let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses!
Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.
Keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.
(Ps. 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20)

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: My Eyes Are Ever toward the Lord!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Psalm 25 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	101	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118
Evening	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Strong Man Delivers Us from Satan’s Kingdom—Lk. 11:14-28	
Monday	Passion: The Preparation of the Passover—Luke 22:1-13	Exodus 12:1-14
Tuesday	Passion: Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Luke 22:14-30	Psalm 116:12-19
Wednesday	MIDWEEK: Daniel and the Lions’ Den—Daniel 6:1-23	Psalm 73:25-28
Thursday	Passion: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Luke 22:31-46	Psalm 91
Friday	Passion: Jesus’ Arrest—Luke 22:47-55 Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	Proverbs 27:1-11
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Isaiah 49:8-13	Galatians 4:21-31

The Catechism: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors (Second Half)

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments.)

Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.

What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors? We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.	First Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:12
Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.	Second Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:13
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.	Third Grade + Hebrews 13:17

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: Megan Braunschweig (3/20), Martin Gehlbach (3/21), Luke Voss (3/22), Ann Carus, Victor Prahl (3/26).

Thanksgiving: Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: Janet Meyle in grave condition following a stroke; Aubrey Krueger receiving mental treatment; Paul Johnson, Brenda Greschner's son-in-law; recuperating from back surgery; Jim Nitzsche in pulmonary failure at Linden Grove. Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe recovering from a stroke; Tom Pinzl recovering from kidney surgery; Bob Zaretzke left leg injury from falls; Mary McMiller recovering from knee surgery (infection); Amy Bruss, recovering from a stroke.

Cancer Treatment: Dr. Roland "Cap" Ehlke; James Loker; Josiah Boehringer.

In Hospice Care: Nancy Thiele (leukemia)

Concordia University Wisconsin for renewal and healing in God's Word.

The people of Ukraine, wisdom and guidance for the governments of the world in dealing with the crisis of Russia's invasion.

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.

Collect for the Annunciation of Our Lord: (March 25)

O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory 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

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to Laetare Sunday— The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

Hymns: 510, 743, 642, 711, 849, 643

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.

Galatians 4:21-31: The child born to Hagar was a symbol of trying to save oneself by one's own work. Abraham and Sarah tried to "help God" keep His promise by having the servant Hagar have a child by Abraham. Ishmael was NOT the son of the promise. The son of the promise would be born not by the works of the law or any human effort, but by the free grace and promise that God made to Abraham and Sarah. We are not children of God by the Law, but children of God by the promise of the Gospel.

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.