

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent/Laetare Sunday
March 27 through April 3, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Week of Laetare— “Rejoice...”—The Latin title for this week in Lent is “Laetare” which means “rejoice”. It is taken from the Introit for the Sunday, “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her.” Whenever we encounter references to the city of Jerusalem within the psalter, we may safely apply the references to the Church today. So, Isaiah and David in this week’s introit are calling us to “rejoice with the church of Jesus Christ and be glad with her. We love the church because it is the place of our Lord’s saving presence. By Word and Sacrament the church is the dispenser of Christ’s saving gifts. We are glad to enter into the congregation of the faithful to receive His gifts and we pray for the Church’s peace and safety.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her;
that you may feed and be satisfied with the consolation of her bosom.

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.”

For the sake of my brethren and companions,

I will now say, “Peace be with—in you.”

(Isaiah 66:10a, 11a; Ps. 122:1-2, 6, 8)

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: Rejoice with the Church and Pray for Her Peace and Safety!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 118:8

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalm 122 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	84
Evening	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	42, 32

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15	
Monday	Passion: Peter Denies His Lord—Luke 22:54-62	Psalm 6
Tuesday	Passion: Jesus Before the Sanhedrin—Luke 22:63-71	Daniel 7:9-14
Wednesday	MIDWEEK: Pray the Lord to Send Laborers—Matt 9:35-39	Ephesians 4:11-16
Thursday	Passion: Jesus Before Pontius Pilate and King Herod—Lk. 23:1-12	Psalm 2
Friday	Passion: The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Luke 23:13-38	Psalm 78:31-39
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Genesis 22:1-14	Hebrews 9:11-15

The Catechism: Of Civil Government

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

<p>What does God's Word say of Civil Government? 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>	<p>First Grade + Romans 13:1</p>
<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>	<p>Second Grade + Romans 13:2</p>

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, Dale Stratil, Geri Zaretzke (3/30), Amanda DiPuma (3/31), Linda Milos, Ava Damato (4/1).

Thanksgiving: birth of Charles Wallace Jennings, son of Leah & Nick Jennings, grandson of Wally & Mary Schneider; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: Mark Gretzinger, hospitalized with back issues, Gary Lavann, father of Cheryl Gretzinger, diagnosed with bladder cancer, Rev. Dan McMiller, LCMS OIM executive in failing health and undergoing testing; Christy Schmidt recovering from a minor stroke; Aubrey Krueger receiving mental treatment; Jim Nitzsche in pulmonary failure at Linden Grove. 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)

Those who mourn: the family and friends of Janet Meyle who mourn her death.

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 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.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name" (stanzas 1-3)

734

Looking forward to Judica Sunday— The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

Hymns: 572, 430, 428, 606, 798, 530

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."