

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday in Lent/Judica Sunday
April 3 through April 10, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Week of Judica— “Vindicate...”—The Latin title for this week in Lent is “Judica” which means “judge” or better translated “vindicate me.” It is taken from the Introit for the Sunday: “Vindicate me, O God, and plead (or defend) my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!” (Psalm 43:1-2) There are times in life in which evil and deceit are perpetrated against us by wicked and deceitful people. Jesus endured all such injustices for us from those who hated His ministry of mercy. At such times, we are called to entrust ourselves to God. We identify with our Lord and draw our strength and comfort from Him who endured all manner of injustice for us. In the end, and for Jesus’ sake, He will vindicate His people and plead their case against the ungodly. In the end, God will bring forth justice for the oppressed, and right all wrongs at the last.

“Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation;

Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

For You are the God of my strength.

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul?

And why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.”

(Psalm 43:1-2a; Psalm 43:3-5)

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: Vindicate Me, O God, and Plead My Cause!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 8:18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worthy to be compared with the glory
which shall be revealed in us.

Psalm 43 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful God and Father, Your Son was falsely accused, slandered, and lied about in every way by His enemies, yet He did not defend Himself but entrusted Himself to Your justice. Vindicate us, oh Lord, and plead our cause in a world of ungodliness and wicked attacks upon our good name and reputation. Teach us to commend ourselves to You who judges righteously and to wait upon Your deliverance, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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	Jesus Confesses to be “I AM”—John 8:42-59	
Monday	Passion: Jesus’ Death and Burial—Luke 23:39-56	Psalm 31:1-15
Tuesday	Passion: Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—John 12:1-11	Deuteronomy 15:7-11
Wednesday	MIDWEEK: The Entry into Jerusalem—John 12:12-26	Psalm 118:1-20
Thursday	Passion: Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1-20	Exodus 40:1-33
Friday	Passion: A New Commandment Is Given—John 13:21-38	Psalm 41
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Zechariah 9:9-12	Philippians 2:5-11

The Catechism: Table of Duties—Of Citizens

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

What does God’s Word say of citizens?

Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.

First Grade +
Matthew 22:21

It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.	<u>Third</u> Grade + Romans 13:5-7
I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.	<u>Second</u> Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1-3
Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.	<u>First</u> Grade + Titus 3:1
Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.	<u>Fourth</u> Grade + 1 Peter 2:13-14

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

Prayer of a Christian Citizen

Merciful Father, grant us faith to pray for the civil authorities and to trust that You will accomplish Your good and gracious will through them. Teach us to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness and to be ready to do whatever is good in service to others in our community and nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Jackie Klug (4/4), Karen Frerking (4/5), Verla Gatchell (4/7), Paul Woehrmann, Rachael & Sarah Ligrow (4/8).

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

The Sick: Alex Carus, heart surgery Thursday; Elyse Venti, injured arm (great-granddaughter of Lyle and Jan Wollin); Gary Lavann, bladder cancer surgery Tuesday (father of Cheryl Gretzinger); Jan Wollin and Shirley Weber, recovering from surgery; Rev. Dan McMiller, treatment multiple myeloma; Mark Gretzinger, awaiting back surgery; Christy Schmidt-recovering-minor stroke; Aubrey Krueger, mental health treatment; Amy Bruss, in therapy following a stroke; Dr. Roland "Cap" Ehlke, James Loker, Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment; Nancy Thiele in hospice care.

Those in mourning: Family of Charlie and Nikki Rothe who suffered a miscarriage.

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent / Judica Sunday:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

"Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing" (stanzas 1-2, 5)

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Looking forward to Palm Sunday—Holy Week

April 10, 2022

Hymns: 454, 420, 423, 440, 432

Zechariah 9:9-12: The prophet Zechariah foretells Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in lowliness upon the back of a donkey. He who was borne up by a beast of burden became a beast of burden for us, carrying our sin away upon the cross.

Philippians 2:5-11: Though He was God, Jesus "humbled Himself" to the point of death upon a cross. This section of Paul's letter to the Philippians was probably used as a portion of the liturgy of the early church. It illustrates the mystery of our salvation. Man did not ascend to God to make amends for sin. He could not. God descended to us in the person of His Son and redeemed us by becoming a curse for us. Thanks be to God! Therefore, "God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Passion According to St. Luke 22—23: This year's Palm Sunday Passion reading is from St. Luke's Gospel. The Passion according to St. Luke records for us several sayings of Jesus which are found only in Luke's Passion. Each of these sayings highlights the brilliance of His saving work which was wrought for us by grace alone. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, He prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He prayed for the soldiers who crucified Him, for the chief priests and elders of the people who delivered Him up to Pontius Pilate, for the crowds who hurled insults at Him as He hung from the cross, and He prayed for the world and for us. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." None of us knows the full extent of our sins. If we did, we could not stand up under the weight of them all. His prayer reflects the undeserved grace of God in Christ who desires and has won salvation for all. To the penitent thief on the cross He declared, "Today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). The thief was a murderer and an insurrectionist. He had lived in wickedness and unbelief and was now in the final moments of his life. He had no time to amend his life or make up for what he had done. He could only pray the prayer of faith: "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom" and Jesus spoke an absolution to him and promised him eternal life. And Jesus' final words were words of faith, "Father, 'into your hands I commend My spirit'" (Luke 23:46). They are the words of Psalm 31:5. He prayed the psalms while He suffered for us upon the cross. He had finished His work. He had done all for us. Now He offered His atoning sacrifice to God the Father on our behalf. Because of His work, we can pray the same prayer to our heavenly Father every day. Through faith in Christ, we are prepared to commend ourselves to God with the full confidence of His salvation. Meditate upon these words in the Passion. They were spoken to strengthen your faith in His forgiveness and the all sufficiency of His work for your salvation.