

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Sexagesima Sunday

February 12 through February 19, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lord Remembers His Promise to Save His People**—When the Lord “remembers” it does not mean that He had forgotten, but rather that He is acting according to His promise of salvation to us. When we “remember” the Lord, we are recalling His promises to us and calling out to Him on the basis of those promises. This week’s readings continue the narrative of God’s call to Moses to redeem the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. In the **Lord Goes with Moses to Egypt**, we learn of Moses’ doubts and apprehension. The Lord promises to go with him and gives him signs to show before Pharaoh and his brother Aaron to speak on his behalf. When **Moses Goes to Pharaoh** the Lord’s prediction comes true. Pharaoh hardens his heart and life for the children of Israel becomes even more difficult as they have to gather their own straw to make bricks. The children of Israel are distraught and speak against Moses. In a powerful proclamation of God’s saving acts that He performed on the basis of His promises, the **Lord Promises Deliverance**. The Lord foretold to Moses everything that would unfold for him before Pharaoh and what he was to do. In the **Lord Gives Signs**, the Lord demonstrates His superiority over the gods of Egypt and how He will harden Pharaoh’s heart that He might gain honor over Pharaoh. **The Plagues** are a set of nine plagues in three groups of three which demonstrate that the Lord God of Israel is the only true and living God over the false gods of Egypt. The water turned into blood, the frogs, and the lice demonstrate the Lord’s judgment against the Egyptian gods of the underworld. The flies, the diseased livestock, and the boils demonstrate the Lord’s judgment against the Egyptian gods of the earthly plane. And the plagues of hail, locusts, and darkness demonstrate the Lord’s judgment against the Egyptian gods of the overworld. Through this public display before Egypt and Israel, the Lord demonstrates that He is the only true and living God.

## 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: The Word of God Is Living and Powerful!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Acts 2:41a, 42

Those who gladly received his word were baptized ...

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Psalm 1 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm** Lord God, heavenly Father forgive us for walking in the teachings of the ungodly, for standing in the path of the sinners, or for sitting with those who scoff at Your Word. Teach us to delight in Your Word and to meditate upon it day and night, so that we might be like a strong tree that is planted by the streams of living water. Grant that through faith in Your Son the righteousness of Christ, the Blessed Man, might be ours; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18
Evening	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Sexagesima:</b> The Sower and the Seed—Luke 8:4-15	
Monday	The Lord Goes with Moses to Egypt—Exodus 4:1-31	John 9:1-12
Tuesday	Moses Goes to Pharaoh—Exodus 5:1-23	John 9:13-23
Wednesday	The Lord Promises Deliverance—Exodus 6:1-13	John 9:24-34
Thursday	The Lord Gives Signs—Exodus 6:28—7:25	John 9:35-41
Friday	The Plagues—Ex. 8:1-4 (7-10) 13-25, 32; 9:1-4, 7-35; 10:3-6 (7-11) 20-29	John 10:1-6
Saturday	Quinquagesima: Strengthen the Weak—Isaiah 35:3-7	1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this Written?

What is Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Under the bread and wine,

Instituted by Christ Himself

For us Christians to eat and to drink.

First Grade +

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:	Second Grade +
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.”	Kindergarten +

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

**Prayer before Receiving the Lord’s Supper**

*O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You that on the night You were betrayed You instituted the Lord’s Supper from the Old Testament Passover and showed Yourself to be the true Passover Lamb. You redeemed us from slavery to sin, death, and the power of the devil through Your body and blood that was given and shed for our forgiveness upon the cross. Prepare us faithfully to eat and to drink of Your body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, that we might receive every blessing of salvation that You won for us in Your suffering and death upon the cross. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of the Altar**

*Lord Jesus Christ, by Your own words You have instituted the Lord’s Supper, teaching us to believe that it is Your true body and blood, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink. We give thanks to You for this precious gift. Give us true faith in Your words that we might receive Your body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation as You have promised. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

**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.*

**In Our Prayers this Week** (include the petitions below followed by the Lord’s Prayer)

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Jeannine Gabel (2/12), Katie Larson (2/13), Lynn Leider (2/16), Ashlynn Lueck, Doug Pom (2/17), Carol David (2/18).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Aaron and Jeanine Walentoski (2/14).

**The Sick:** Cindy Hirtz, Mark Schneider, and Mark Gretzinger recovering from surgery; Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.**

**Hymn of the Week**

**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

**895**

<b>Looking forward to Quinquagesima Sunday</b>	<b>February 19, 2023</b>
<b>Hymns: 942, 947, 865, 954, 960, 962, 556, 685, 617</b>	
<b>Isaiah 35:3-7:</b> 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.”	
<b>1 Corinthians 13:1-13:</b> 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.	
<b>Luke 18:31-43:</b> 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.	