

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Quinquagesima Sunday

February 19 through February 26, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 31: A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Comfort for the Lord's Deliverance—Jesus was hated, so will His Christians be. Jesus was assaulted by the Evil One, so will His Christians be. Jesus suffered much at the hands of those spiritual and earthly forces that tried to destroy Him, and so will His Christians be. Yet through all of this the Lord God sustained Him, and He will sustain His Christians too. Psalm 31 is a great example of how we pray THROUGH CHRIST for all the comfort, help, and strength that God promises to give us. We are actually praying for the things that God promises. This is what gives Christian prayer its certainty. This understanding appears at the beginning of the psalm: "Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress to save me" (the petition); "For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me" (the confident assertion of faith). The certainty that God hears our prayers is anchored in the great truths of the Gospel that He promises and declares to us. "Since He is our God and Savior, since He has redeemed me from all sin, death and the power of the devil, THEN I can be confident that He hears my prayers for His deliverance, and I will give thanks to Him for the assurance of His answer to my prayers!" Confidence in God's promises of deliverance rests in what Jesus has done for us in His death and resurrection. Christ is, therefore, the One who gives certainty and confidence to our prayers! In Psalm 31 we can hear Jesus' own prayers. He faced every challenge for us! He endured in the confidence that His Father in heaven was His refuge and strength! And the Lord heard His prayers. In His suffering, persecution, and death, Jesus confidently commended Himself to His Father in heaven: "But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand; Deliver Me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute Me." We pray these same prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and in the full assurance of faith, because we are joined to Him. It is for Jesus' sake that we commend ourselves to God: "For You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth." As Jesus prayed these words with confidence from the cross, we are enabled to pray them with confidence in Him and in His redemption.

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: Jesus Set His Face to the Cross for Us!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 6:35b

I am the bread of life.

He who comes to Me shall never hunger,
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Psalm 31:1-8 (9-24) and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm. O Lord, You are my fortress and strength. In the righteousness of Your Son deliver me from all the forces that would seek to destroy my faith and confidence in You. Teach me to commend myself to your mercy and to believe with all my heart that my times are in Your hand for my eternal good; through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35
Evening	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Quinquagesima: A Blind Man Receives His Sight—Lk. 18:31-43	
Monday	The Death of the Firstborn Is Announced—Exodus 11:1-10 No School —read at home devotions	John 10:7-15
Tuesday	The Passover Is Instituted—Exodus 12:1-14	John 10:16-21
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday: Consecrate a Fast—Joel 2:12-19	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday	The Death of the Firstborn—Exodus 12:21-30	John 10:22-31
Friday	St. Matthias, Apostle: Acts 1:15-26	Matthew 11:25-30
Saturday	Lent 1: 1 Samuel 17:40-51	2 Corinthians 6:1-10

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

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 +
<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 +
<i>How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?</i> 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, the Collects for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

Collect for the week of Quinquagesima Sunday:

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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 Ash Wednesday:

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God...

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

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Matt Gatchell, Cole Petersen (2/19), Simeon Schneider (2/21), Melovin Swiskoski (2/24).

Wedding Anniversaries: Bob and Geri Zaretske (2/19).

The Sick: Dennis Michaelis (cousin of Verla Gatchell); Gabby Hartwig; 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

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

865

Looking forward to Invocabit Sunday— The First Sunday in Lent	February 26, 2023
Hymns: 440, 521, 665, 658, 666, 714	
1 Samuel 17:40-51: <i>In the lowliness of His humiliation and suffering, Jesus looked to be weak in the face of the Goliath of Satan, sin, and death. How could a lowly Shepherd defeat this colossal giant? David in his battle with the Philistine giant is a picture of how Jesus defeated Satan, sin, and death for us. The five stones in his pouch signify the Law. In Jesus’ obedience unto death He fulfilled the Law and the judgment against us, thereby defeating Satan and crushing his head. Satan has no authority over us because Jesus has defeated him. Like Goliath, Satan boasted of his power in egotistical pride. Like David, Jesus gave all glory to His Father and relied upon Him alone: “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel ... the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s.”</i>	
2 Corinthians 6:1-10: <i>As long as we live, the Lord’s call remains constant: “Now is the day of salvation! Come to Me!”</i>	
Matthew 4:1-11: <i>“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Every step of the way in His time of testing and temptation from the evil one, Jesus quoted Scripture and defended Himself and the honor of His Father with the Word of God. Even when Satan twisted and misused God’s Word, Jesus countered by faithfully proclaiming God’s Word in reply. As strange as it sounds to our ears, Jesus did not even rely upon Himself; instead, He relied solely upon His Father’s good and gracious Word. He was faithful unto death that we might be rescued from every manifestation of unfaithfulness from our sinful nature.</i>	