

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent/Invocavit Sunday  
February 26 through March 5, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Promise Fulfilled in Triumphant Victory** — This week's Bible narratives bring us to the fulfillment of God's promise to deliver His people from slavery in the **Exodus**. Exodus means, "the way out"—the "way out of slavery" was by the blood of the Passover Lamb. That Old Testament feast, involving the shedding of the Lamb's blood and the eating of the Passover is fulfilled in the death of Christ and the Lord's Supper. **Israel Journeys to the Red Sea** in their exodus from Egypt where the **Lord Fights for Israel**, delivering them through water from the pursuing Egyptians. The Red Sea crossing is a wonderful picture of Holy Baptism. We hear the sweet words of Gospel in what Moses tells the fearful children of Israel, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you this day!" From beginning to end, salvation is entirely the Lord's doing. These Old Testament narratives further illuminate how the promises of the Gospel find their fulfillment in Christ's work for us in His death and resurrection. The **Song of Moses** celebrates this great victory over the Egyptians, even as we sing the songs of Christ's victory over sin, death, and the power of the Evil One. Finally, our Wednesday Lenten midweek meditations begin this week with the first reading from the St. Matthew Passion, **Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany**. In this reading we will meditate upon the gift of Holy Baptism and how we are united to Christ and He with us in Baptism. Jesus was anointed to die. In our Baptism, we are united to His death and resurrection through water and the Word.

## 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 Is Our Champion in Victory over Satan

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery:

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm.** Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56
Evening	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Lent 1:</b> The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	
Monday	The Exodus—Exodus 12:31-42	John 10:31-42
Tuesday	Israel Journeys to the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:9	John 11:1-16
Wednesday	<b>Passion: Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany</b> —Matthew 26:2-16	Psalms 89:20-29
Thursday	The Lord Fights for Israel—Exodus 14:10-31	John 11:17-37
Friday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19	John 11:38-44
Saturday	Lent 2: Jacob Wrestles with God—Genesis 32:22-32	Romans 5:1-5

**The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar**— Review and Who receives this sacrament worthily?

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? (review)

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: (review)	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: <b>“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”</b> In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, <b>“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.”</b>	Kindergarten +
Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: <b>“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”</b> But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.	Second Grade +

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

**Prayer for Worthy Reception of the Sacrament of the Altar**

*Heavenly Father, You teach me that fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training before receiving the Lord’s Supper, but that I am truly worthy and well prepared if I have faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Give me truly repentant faith that, confessing my sins and trusting in the merits of Jesus alone, I might worthily receive His body and blood, so that I find joy and comfort in Christ alone and also learn from Him to love You and my neighbor; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

**Collect for the week of The First Sunday in Lent/ Invocabit Sunday:**

*O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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)**

**Birth:** Evelyn Joyce McMiller, daughter of Christian and Mary McMiller, who was born this week.

**Baptisms:** Phoebe Aletheia Christiansen and Zachariah John Schneider who are baptized today.

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Sarah Piper (2/26), Alison Meehan, Abigail Bender (2/27), Kevin Gierach (2/28), James Daleiden (1/4), James Kirk (3/2), Christine Franklin (3/3).

**The Sick:** Mary McMiller recuperating from a Caesarian section. Dennis Michaelis (cousin of Verla Gatchell); Gabby Hartwig; Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**Those Who Mourn:** Paul Schmidt, close friend and business partner of Pat Handlos.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (Stanzas 1 and 5)**

**440**

**Looking forward to Reminiscere Sunday—The Second Sunday in Lent** **March 5, 2023**

**Hymns: 615, TLH 319, 760, 763, 437, 889**

**Genesis 32:22 -32:** When Jacob returns to meet his brother Esau who had threatened to kill him, he is left all alone before the Lord. In this wrestling match we are taught much about faith in Christ. The Lord WANTS us to wrestle with Him in prayer and to INSIST that He bless, protect, and deliver us according to the promises of His Word.

**Romans 5:1-11:** Righteousness is imputed to us for Christ’s sake through faith in Christ, who died for sin and was raised from the dead to justify us, i.e., to declare us righteous on account of what He has done for us. This righteousness is received by faith. This is the foundation for the comforting words of Romans 5. Paul is speaking to the justified! “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Since we have been justified and have access to the grace of God through Christ, we can face all manner of tribulation and hardship.

**Matthew 15:21-28:** “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old” is the opening of the introit appointed for this Sunday, called in Latin, “Remember me” Sunday! In the appointed Gospel, the Gentile woman from Canaan cries out to Jesus for mercy because her daughter is severely demon-possessed. Her daughter needs His help and so does she! Every experience in the account would lead her to believe that the Lord does not love her or care about her salvation. It is not true! Jesus’ test of this woman reveals to us that the true nature of saving faith is that it does not rely upon any merit or worthiness within the sinner, but solely upon the promise of salvation in Christ. This woman believed the promise of salvation made to Abraham. She worshiped Jesus as her Savior because she knew and believed that she was “an unworthy Gentile dog!” She called upon the Lord to remember HIS mercy, and not to help her for any other reason than the promises that God’s own Word had made to unworthy sinners. This is why Jesus says, “O woman, great is your faith!” Her faith was great because the object of her faith was Christ alone and His promise of mercy. We cry out to Him in our time of need in the same way: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies....”