

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Lent/Reminiscere Sunday
March 5 through March 12, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lord's Care and Provision for His Rebellious People—This week's Old Testament stories highlight God's grace toward His rebellious people. Despite the mighty deliverance they had experienced in their deliverance from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, they grumbled and complained against the Lord throughout their wilderness sojourn to Mount Sinai. In **Bitter Water Made Sweet** it appeared to Israel as if they would die of thirst in the wilderness, but the Lord would not allow them to perish. He sweetened the water so that they could drink, and it would sustain life. In **The Bread from Heaven** they again grumbled against the Lord and accused Him of not caring for them by letting them starve in the wilderness. Again, the Lord provided manna from heaven and quail to eat in abundance. But even in their eating, they demonstrated ungratefulness and accused the Lord of abandoning them. In the **Water from the Rock** we see the source of every temporal and spiritual blessing: Christ, the Rock of our salvation. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock in the wilderness. Water gushed forth, completely satisfying every need of the entire congregation. By this water their thirst was quenched, and He would continue to provide for them from the rock throughout their sojourn. This rock is a picture of Christ. He is the Rock of our salvation. On the altar of the cross He was struck with a spear and blood and water gushed forth for the life and salvation of all who look to Him in faith. **The First Battle** announces the first of many victories that the Lord would give to Israel throughout their pilgrimage and as they would experience in the conquest of the Promised Land. Finally, this week's Passion reading from St. Matthew is: **Jesus Celebrates the Passover**. This reading, so central to our Lord's Passion, teaches us that every sacrifice and feast of the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in Jesus, the true Passover Lamb. He was slaughtered for us upon the altar of the cross and in His supper we eat and drink of His body and blood for our salvation.

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: Remember Me in Mercy, O Lord!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 121 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm. My help comes from You, O Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. I commend myself to Your care and keeping, for You will never slumber or sleep, but promise to keep me from all evil and preserve my life in Christ. Preserve my going out and my coming into the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that strengthened by Your grace I may ever abide in the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73
Evening	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Lent 2: The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28	
Monday	Bitter Water Made Sweet—Exodus 15:22-27	John 11:45-57
Tuesday	The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-35	John 12:1-8
Wednesday	Passion: Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Matthew 26:17-35	Psalm 118:21-29
Thursday	The Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	John 12:9-11
Friday	The First Battle—Exodus 17:8-16	John 12:12-19
Saturday	Lent 3: The Plague of Gnats and Flies—Exodus 8:16-24	Ephesians 5:1-9

The Catechism: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

(Preschool and Kindergarten children review the primary texts of the first three commandments)

What does God's Word say to bishops, pastors, and preachers?

The overseer must be above reproach,
the husband of but one wife,
temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable,
able to teach,

First Grade +
1 Timothy 3:2

not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 3:3-4
He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 3:6
He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.	Fourth Grade + Titus 1:9

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

Prayer for Pastors

O Lord Jesus, You are the Bishop and Overseer of our souls. You are the Lord of the harvest and have commanded us to pray for the gift of pastors to preach the Gospel and shepherd Your Church. Raise up men for the Office of the Holy Ministry who are above reproach, the husband of but one wife, who are temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, and able to teach Your life-giving Word. Deliver all pastors from the self-centered vices of the flesh. Grant them Your grace to manage their families well and to bring up their children in the true faith, with proper respect and devotion to the Word of God. Give them courage to hold firmly to the trustworthy message of the Gospel as it has been handed down to them and the wisdom to refute those who oppose it; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the week of The Second Sunday in Lent/ Reminiscere Sunday:

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Randy Burk (3/5), Kendra Knoerr (3/6), Tim Haga (3/10), Amber LaFore (3/11).

Thanksgiving: Josiah Boehringer, in remission following extensive cancer treatment.

Those Who Serve in the Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Robert Haga and Mark Meyle (Marines); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither (Army).

The Sick: Mark Gretzinger medical testing for undiagnosed medical issues; Larry Haga and Dawn Fredrich recovering from surgery; Dennis Michaelis (cousin of Verla Gatchell); Gabby Hartwig; Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, and Heather Peters in cancer treatment.

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

Hymn of the Week

"When in the Hour of Deepest Need" (stanzas 1 and 5)

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Looking forward to Oculi Sunday—The Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

Hymns: 823, 659, 594, 743, 428, 777

Exodus 8:16-24: *In the strange plagues that visited God's judgment upon Egypt, the Lord demonstrated His superiority and conquest over the satanic gods of the Egyptians. He dominated the gods of the underworld by changing water to blood and in the plagues of frogs and lice. He dominated the gods of the world in the plagues of flies, diseased livestock, and the boils that covered the skin of man and beast. And He dominated the gods of the overworld by the plagues of fiery hail, devouring locusts, and thick darkness that engulfed the land. Against the false gods of this world that are animated by the doctrine of demons, Jesus reigns as the only true God and Savior. He holds the battlefield forever.*

Ephesians 5:1-9: *To "walk in the light" is to live the repentant life—a life that constantly flees from the lusts of the flesh with all its appetites and desires and clings to the renewing power of Christ's love and forgiveness.*

Luke 11:14-28: *Throughout His ministry Jesus showed forth His compassion and mercy by healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and casting out demons. Every miracle of His grace was a sign of the power of His death and resurrection to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. But His antagonists accused Him of casting out demons by the power of the prince of the demons. This is the way that evil works: what is good, saving, and life-giving, according to God's word and His gifts of salvation, is declared to be evil by the world and the forces of darkness. Evil is called good and good is called evil. Such is the way of Satan. Satan is a powerful "strong man," but Jesus is the "Stronger Man"! Jesus casts out demons, not by being in league with the devil, but by "the finger of God." What is God's finger? Is it not His strong Word and Spirit which is anchored in what Jesus accomplished for us in His death, when He crushed the Serpent's head with His heel? Satan is powerless in the face of Him who by His death has robbed him of his power and who, by the preaching of the Gospel, now casts out demons, muzzles the accuser, and bestows salvation from the devil's power. "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!" for the strong Word of the Stronger Man is our sure and certain defense.*