

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday in Lent/Judica Sunday
March 26 through April 2, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Weep Not For Me — “Jesus turning to them said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’” (Luke 23:28) “He suffers for our sake. For this reason, it grieves the Lord that His suffering should make us weep. He wants us to be happy, to praise God and give thanks for His grace, and to glorify Him and bear our witness, for it is through His Passion that we received God’s grace, and were freed from sin, and death, and became God’s dear children. But we are as slow to the one as to the other, for by nature we are contrary. When we should weep over our sins, we laugh; when we should laugh and our hearts be joyful because Christ, through His death, has won eternal life for us, we weep. For either we have no regard for such joy, because our hearts are bewitched by the merriment of this world, or we weep, lament, and pine as if Christ had never died, never paid for our sin, never stilled the wrath of God, and never redeemed us from death. Therefore, prayer is needed for both: first, that God through the Holy Ghost may touch our hearts, that He may make us loathe sin, may draw us away from it, and take away our trust in ourselves. Then, that He may kindle in our hearts His comfort in the midst of sin and give us a firm confidence in our Lord’s sacrifice and satisfaction.” – Martin Luther, 1545, *Day by Day we Magnify Thee*

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 Lord Will Vindicate His People

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

[Jesus said,] “My grace is sufficient for you,
for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities,
that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful Lord, when my soul is cast down and I am disquieted by the troubles of life and the assaults of evil from an ungodly world, teach me to believe that You alone are My strength and joy under the cross of affliction. Send out Your light and Your truth! Let them ever lead me to Your cross and resurrection for comfort; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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	Lent 5: “Before Abraham Was, I AM”—John 8:42-59	
Monday	Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest—John 18:1-27	Lamentations 3:19-33
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—John 18:28-40	Isaiah 52:4-10
Wednesday	Passion: Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate —Matthew 27:1-26	Isaiah 50:4-10
Thursday	Jesus Is Crucified—John 19:1-24	Psalm 22
Friday	Jesus’ Side Is Pierced—John 19:25-42	Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Saturday	Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-9	Philippians 2:5-11

The Catechism: Of Civil Government

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth, fifth and sixth commandments.)

<p>Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.</p>	Everyone
<p>What does God’s Word say of Civil Government? Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.</p>	First Grade + Romans 13:1

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.	Second Grade + Romans 13:2
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade + Romans 13:3
For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	Fourth Grade + Romans 13:4

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

Prayer for the Civil Government:

Heavenly Father give us civil authorities who will serve with integrity and faithfulness, for the maintenance of justice, the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of all those who do well. Grant all Christians faith in Your gracious providence, so that we might honor the civil authorities and contribute to the common welfare of our nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Ann Carus, David Noack Jr., Emily Noack, Victor Prahl (3/26), Cyndi Ruhнау, Geri Zaretzke (3/30), Amanda DiPuma (3/31).

The Sick: Jan Wollin hospitalized after a fall; 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

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" (stanzas 1 and 5)

420

Looking forward to Palm Sunday—Holy Week

April 2, 2023

Hymns: 443, 438, 420, 430, 454

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."*

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew 26:1—27:66: *Each Gospel highlights different aspects of Our Lord's Passion. Unique to St. Matthew's Passion is the message from Pilate's wife: "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." What does it mean? Pilate's wife was tormented in her soul and conscience. Jesus and His Gospel are unsettling to sinful man. We either embrace it in faith or we flee from it. Pilate's wife, like so many, did not want to face the reality of her own sin and the need for salvation that only this Man could provide. It was too much for her to bear. "Let us have nothing to do with Him! I cannot bear him!" Like so many, Pilate's wife recognized the righteousness of Christ, but still she was unwilling to let go of herself and embrace Him in faith. Unique also to the Passion according to St. Matthew is the prophecy that proceeds out of the mouth of the people at the end of the trial before Pilate: "His blood be on us and on our children!" Indeed, this is the way it must be or we cannot be saved.*