

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent / Invocabit Sunday
February 18, 2024, through February 25, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Christ's Body and Blood — "It is the Word of Christ that 'blesses' or 'consecrates' the bread and wine of the Supper, making of them the very body and blood of Christ. 'Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you... 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.' A church cannot have the Lord's Supper without the earthly elements of bread and wine and the Lord's Word which makes of those elements the true body and blood of Christ. The miracle of the Sacrament lies with the Word of the Lord that 'blesses' the bread and wine. Faith receives what the Word declares.... All that Jesus is and has done for us He shares with us in the Sacrament." [Excerpted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 280b]

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: Man Does Not Live by Bread Alone!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

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 | 148 | 1, 2 | 5 | 8, 9 | 10 | 14, 15 | 18 | 19, 20 |
| Evening | 149, 150 | 3 | 4, 6 | 7 | 11, 12 | 13 | 16, 17 | 21 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|--|------------------------|
| Sunday | The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11 | |
| Monday | No School —Tree of Knowledge and Tree of Life—Gen. 2:4-17 | John 1:1-14 |
| Tuesday | Man Eats the Forbidden Fruit—Genesis 3:1-24 | 1 Corinthians 11:17-26 |
| Wednesday | Lent: Jesus Cleanses the Leper —Mark 1:35-45/Confession | |
| Thursday | The Passover—Exodus 12:1-14, 17 | Matthew 26:17-30 |
| Friday | The Wedding in Cana of Galilee—John 2:1-11 | 1 Corinthians 10:14-21 |
| Saturday | St. Matthias, Apostle —Acts 1:15-26 | Matthew 11:25-30 |

The Catechism: What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?

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|---|----------------|
| 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: 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." | Second Grade + |
| 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: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal Anniversaries: Carol David (2/18), Deacon Matthew Gatchell and Cole Petersen (2/19), Simeon Schneider (2/21), Melovin Swiskoski (2/24).

Wedding Anniversaries: Bob & Geri Zaretzke (2/19).

The Sick: Tammy Haga, Cindy Hirtz, Mary Ellen Nitzsche, Sharon Murphy, and Dawn Fredrich (recovering from surgery); Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano) in rehab following a stroke; Tom Smith (father of Christine Franklin), Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig in cancer treatment.

Those in Hospice: Paul Naumann (Beth Bender’s godfather) and Karen (Mark Thoni’s aunt)

Those who mourn: Family and friends of Allan Gabel.

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

Hymn of the Week

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” (stanzas 1-3)

617

Looking forward to Reminiscere Sunday — The Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Hymns: 616, 615, 611, 620, 421, 422

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7: The holy life of faith in Christ lives in purity, denying the passion of lust and sexual immorality. Our bodies belong to the Lord who has redeemed us by offering up His own body upon the cross for our sanctification.

Matthew 15:21-28: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, 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....”