

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday in Lent / Reminiscere Sunday
February 25, 2024, through March 3, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — I Am the Living Bread — “Jesus calls Himself ‘the living bread’ because he is the source of eternal life. To eat of Him in faith is to receive the gift of eternal life. If anyone eats of Him, he will live forever. To speak of Jesus as ‘bread’ is the language of metaphor that immediately brings to mind the notion of eating. Jesus then defines the metaphor by saying, ‘The bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’ The Word became flesh (John 1:14). Jesus suffered and died for our salvation in the flesh. He made full atonement for our sin in the flesh, to take away our sin and to restore us to life with God. He rose from the dead in the flesh the third day. Now, in the Sacrament of the Altar, He gives us His very flesh to eat for eternal life. How can His flesh give eternal life? Because His flesh took away the sin that caused our death and separated us from God. He gave His flesh into death for the life and salvation of the whole world. Jesus’ words call everyone to believe in Him. He who believes in Him desires to be baptized, and he who is baptized desires to receive His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper precisely because of Jesus’ promise: ‘If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’” [Excerpted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Theme: This Is the Will of God: Your Sanctification

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven.

If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;

and the bread that I shall give is My flesh,

which I shall give for the life of the world.

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 in to 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	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28	
Monday	The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-15, 31	John 6:26-40
Tuesday	The Water from Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday	Lent: Jesus Forgives the Paralytic—Mark 2:1-17/Confession	
Thursday	The Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-20	Hebrews 10:11-25
Friday	Touching the Hem of His Garment—Luke 8:40-56	John 6:41-58
Saturday	Jeremiah Preaches the Call to Repentance—Jeremiah 26:1-15	Ephesians 5:1-9

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 +
What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? 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 +

<p><i>How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? 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.”</i></p>	<p>Second Grade +</p>
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Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

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: Sarah Piper, Phoebe Christiansen, Zachariah Schneider (2/26), Ali Meehan, Abigail Bender (2/27), Kevin Gierach (2/28), James Daleiden (3/1).

The Sick: Robert Christopherson (brother of Jack) recovering from heart valve surgery; 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: Karen (Mark Thoni’s aunt)

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Paul Naumann and Robin LaSage

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

Hymn of the Week

“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to Oculi Sunday — The Third Sunday in Lent	March 3, 2024
Hymns: 716, 659, 429, 623, 604, 777	
<p>Jeremiah 26:1-15: Jeremiah was a faithful prophet. The Lord had given him a word to speak, calling Judah to repentance for their sin and calling them to return to the Lord. He prophesied to them that unless they repented of their sin, they would suffer the Lord’s judgment. Since they did not want to hear this message and amend their ways, they threatened to kill Jeremiah. In the face of these threats, Jeremiah did not amend his message in the slightest but remained faithful to what the Lord had given him to say. This is the calling of every prophet and pastor of the Lord. Jeremiah endured much persecution and suffering for being faithful to the Lord’s Word. In the end, he would receive the reward of eternal life.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	