

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent / Oculi Sunday
 March 3, 2024, through March 10, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Administering the Lord’s Supper according to Christ’s Institution — The administration of the Lord’s Supper involves more than Jesus’ Words of Institution and the earthly elements of bread and wine. It also involves catechesis and preaching which precede the administration of the Sacrament and its distribution to penitent Christians. Jesus bids us to receive His Word, so we learn it by heart. Jesus commands that the Sacrament only be given to penitent sinners who have been baptized and believe in Christ. The Apostle Paul directs the Church to proclaim the Lord’s death in sermons prior to the distribution of the Lord’s Supper, and that everyone who communes is to confess that it is His true body and blood given and shed for their forgiveness. The Apostle Paul also teaches us that when we partake at a particular altar that it is a confessional act in which we are saying that we believe, confess, and celebrate the unity of faith with that church. All this is involved in the right administration of the Sacrament of the Altar.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Theme: My Eyes Are Ever on the Lord!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:26

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Psalm 4 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, we know that the godly are those who trust in Your righteousness rather than their own. You are our glory. The light of Your countenance is Your righteousness that covers all our sin. Give us a calm and quiet faith to entrust ourselves to You when we are frustrated by those who attack our faith and the gift of Your righteousness. Teach us to commend ourselves to You in prayer, and to lie down and sleep in the confident peace of Your forgiveness; for You alone are the God of our righteousness, and 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	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	A House Divided—Luke 11:14-28	
Monday	People Crave Meat—Numbers 11:4-6, 10, 13, 18-23, 31-34	1 Corinthians 11:27-34
Tuesday	The Feeding of the Five Thousand—John 6:1-21	1 Corinthians 5:6-13
Wednesday	Lent: The Twelve Apostles—Mark 3:17-19/Office of the Keys	
Thursday	Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven—John 6:22-44	Hebrews 9:11-22
Friday	Jesus Is Rejected by His Own—John 6:47-69	2 John 1:7-11
Saturday	The Time of Favor—Isaiah 49:8-13	Acts 2:41-47

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

<p>What is the Sacrament of the Altar? (review)</p> <p>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.</p>	First Grade +
<p>Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: (review)</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.”</p>	Second Grade + Kindergarten +
<p>Who receives this sacrament worthily?</p> <p>Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”</p> <p>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.</p>	Second Grade +

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the Third Sunday in Lent/Oculi Sunday:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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: Christine Franklin (3/3), Randy Burk (3/5), Kendra Knoerr (3/6).

Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army).

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 treatment for lung disease; Tom Smith, Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig for cancer.

Those in Hospice: Karen (Mark Thoni’s aunt)

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

Hymn of the Week

“Baptismal Waters Cover Me” (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to Laetare Sunday — The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

Hymns: 510, 743, 625, 420, 641, 729

Isaiah 49:8-13: *This prophecy from Isaiah begins with a word from God the Father to His Son: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth.” The Father promised to establish His Son as Savior of the world, to give release to those bound in the prison house of sin and to feed those who hunger and thirst for salvation. It is a comforting prophecy of the Lord’s kingdom of grace in which “they shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them.” For all this we sing and rejoice in the Lord for His everlasting comfort and mercy.*

Acts 2:41-47: *This reading from the book of Acts describes how the life of the baptized faithful in the church will be characterized by regular and faithful receiving of the Lord’s Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service. It is the Apostolic doctrine that creates and binds us together in the fellowship of faith in Christ; and it is in the Lord’s Supper and in the Church’s liturgy (the prayers) that this common faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated. Out of this Divine Service, received in faith, the church engages faithfully in acts of mercy, taking care of those who had need within the household of faith and regularly celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar.*

John 6:1-15: *Jesus fed the 5,000 at the time of the Passover. Great multitudes came to Him with all their diseases and maladies. They came to hear His preaching and to receive the hope of salvation. All of Jesus’ miracles were wonderful signs of the salvation He came to bring. By feeding the 5,000 at the time of the Passover, He showed them that HE was the fulfillment of the Passover. He would fulfill the Law. He would give them freedom from the slavery to sin, death, and the power of Satan. He is the source of life—the very Bread of Life Himself. In spite of this, they misinterpreted His miracle. Instead of seeing Him as the Savior from all their sins and the devastating effects that sin brought upon this world, they saw Him as a “bread king” who could meet their every self-centered demand. He was “the Prophet greater than Moses,” but they treated Him the same way that Moses was treated. They would grumble and complain if they didn’t get their way. In faithfulness to the promises of the Gospel, Jesus continued to do what the Father had called Him to do. He would go to the cross for a sinful and rebellious people. It is only after His resurrection that those who confessed Him to be the Messiah would understand more clearly the nature of His work. In the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 we see a foreshadowing of the Lord’s Supper. In this sign He calls us to believe in Him and to worship Him in humble and contrite faith.*