The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer For the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent / Laetare Sunday March 10, 2024, through March 17, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — "All Scripture Is Given by Inspiration of God" – "The origin of the Holy Scriptures is the Holy Spirit. He is the 'breath of God' by which all Scripture has been 'inspired' or, literally, 'breathed by God' into the men who wrote the sacred texts. For this reason, the Scriptures are said to be 'inspired' by God and, therefore, 'inerrant' (without error). Although this passage refers most specifically to the Old Testament Scriptures, the Apostle Paul is also catechizing the Church concerning the divine and authoritative nature of the apostolic Scriptures of the New Testament and the use of all Scripture in the Church." [Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 42c]

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: I Am the Living Bread that Came Down from Heaven.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Psalm 125 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O LORD, grant us firm faith in You. Establish us in the freedom of Your salvation so that we fear no power on earth but abide in the protection of Your love; 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	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	84
Evening	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	42, 32

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15	
Monday	Palm Sunday—Mark 11:1-19	Zechariah 9:9-12
Tuesday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—Mark 14:1-11	Isaiah 49:13-18
Wednesday	Lent: Jesus Institutes the Supper—Mark 14:12-31/Sac. of the Altar	
Thursday	Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Mark 14:12-31	Zechariah 13:7-9
Friday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Mark 14:32-52	Psalm 88
Saturday	The Sacrifice of Isaac—Genesis 22:1-14	Hebrews 9:11-15

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,	First Grade + 1 Timothy 3:2
the husband of but one wife,	1 Thiotity 5.2
temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable,	
able to teach,	
not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle,	Second Grade +
not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.	1 Timothy 3:3-4
He must manage his own family well	
and see that his children obey him with proper respect.	
He must not be a recent convert,	Third Grade +
or he may become conceited	1 Timothy 3:6
and fall under the same judgment as the devil.	
He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,	Fourth Grade +
so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine	Titus 1:9
and refute those who oppose it.	

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

Collect for the week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent/Laetare Sunday:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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. For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout Friday: the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying. For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive Saturday: hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive

In Our Prayers this Week — "Let us pray for..."

Christ's holy gifts.

Baptismal Anniversaries: *Timothy Haga* (3/10), *Amber LaFore* (3/11).

Wedding Anniversaries: John and Samantha Bender (3/14).

The Sick: Julie Goltermann undergoing thyroid surgery on Thursday, March 14. <u>Carol</u> David in therapy after hospitalization; <u>Robert</u> Christopherson (brother of Jack) recovering from heart valve surgery; <u>Tammy</u> Haga, <u>Cindy</u> Hirtz, <u>Mary Ellen</u> Nitzsche, <u>Sharon</u> Murphy, and <u>Dawn</u> Fredrich (recovering from surgery); Yet <u>Ngor</u> Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano) in treatment for lung disease; <u>Bill</u> Spilger, <u>Tom</u> Smith, Rev. Dr. <u>John</u> Wille, Rev. <u>Luke</u> Boehringer, <u>Jean</u> Reuss, and <u>Gabby</u> Hartwig for cancer. **Those in Hospice:** <u>Karen</u> (Mark Thoni's aunt)

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

Hymn of the Week

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" (stanzas 1-2)

743

March 17, 2024

Looking forward to Judica Sunday — The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Hymns: 438, 430, 574, 428, 798, 718

Genesis 22:1-14: Abraham was called by God away from idolatry to be the "father of many nations." The Lord promised Abraham that in his Seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The Lord called Abraham to faith and made this promise to him when he was 75 years old. He and Sarah had to wait for 25 years before Isaac was born. Although it appeared as if the son of the promise would never be born and that it was impossible for a woman of Sarah's age to ever have a baby, Isaac was finally born when Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90! The Lord kept His promise! It was a miracle of God's grace. Now, in the Old Testament reading for Lent 5, Abraham is called to sacrifice the very son for whom he had waited for so long. By the call to sacrifice Isaac, "your only son whom you love," the Lord reveals that Abraham's faith was, indeed, in God's promise alone! Because of the promise, Abraham knew and believed that even if Isaac were to be put to death, he would rise from the dead, because God had promised: "In your Seed ALL the nations of the earth would be blessed." The years of waiting had been used by God to convince Abraham that the Lord NEVER breaks His promise, and that the miracle of salvation depends entirely upon the Lord and His Word. Even if Isaac dies, he correctly reasoned, according to the promise he MUST live again. So much of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is revealed in this event: The object of the Christian faith is the promise of salvation in Christ; Abraham is a picture of God the Father who sacrifices His only Son whom He loves for us; the Son of the Promise would bring about the blessing of salvation by being sacrificed in our place; the Ram caught in the thicket continues the theme of substitutionary atonement.

Hebrews 9:11-15: The apostle declares that Jesus is not only the faithful High Priest of a better and eternal covenant of redemption, but that He is also the very sacrifice for sin Himself.

John 8:42-59: Jesus teaches us that Abraham longed to see the fulfillment of God's promise in the sending forth of God's eternal Son. In this Gospel, Jesus clearly confesses that He is the eternal Son of the Father by applying the divine name given at the burning bush to Himself: "Before Abraham was I AM." This is why the Jews took up stones to stone Him. They believed He was committing blasphemy by applying the divine name to Himself. By this action they showed that they did not love God or His Son whom the Father had sent. Jesus said, "He who is of God, hears God's words ... if anyone keeps My word, he shall never see death."