

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Fifth Sunday in Lent / Judica Sunday  
 March 17, 2024, through March 24, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 43: A Prayer for the Light of God’s Word to Draw Us to Faithful Worship—**  
 Psalm 43 is a briefer version of Psalm 42. The psalmist is distraught. He is pursued by the ungodly nation and those who despise his faith. He prays for vindication, that the Lord God would fight for him with words: “plead my cause!” As he is tormented by his enemy and those whose accusations are troubling his soul, his prayer rests upon the assertion: “You are the God of my strength!” At the center of Psalm 43, the psalmist prays for the light of God’s Word of truth to be sent forth for him so that he is led to return to the holy hill of the Lord in faithful worship. Unless the light of God’s Word calls us to repentance and faith, we cannot worship God faithfully or make sense of our lives. It is God’s Word that teaches us to delight in Him and to desire Him above all things. It is God’s Word that gives us wisdom, teaches us to confess, and animates our song of praise. “Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy: and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.” The prayer resolves with the confident assertion: If we have God on our side in Christ Jesus our Lord, then we have nothing to fear.

## 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 Provide for Himself the Lamb for the Sacrifice.

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a

[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

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

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Most merciful God and Father, Your Son was falsely accused, slandered, and lied about in every way by His enemies, yet He did not defend Himself but entrusted Himself to Your justice. Vindicate us, O Lord, and plead our cause in a world of ungodliness and wicked attacks upon our good name and reputation. Teach us to commend ourselves to You who judges righteously and to wait upon Your deliverance, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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	<b>Before Abraham Was, “I AM”—John 8:42-59</b>	
Monday	Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin—Mark 14:53-72	Psalm 35:17-28
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—Mark 15:1-15 <b>St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus—Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23</b>	Isaiah 50:4-10
Wednesday	<b>Lent: Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest—Mark 14:43-52/Sac. of the Altar</b>	
Thursday	The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Mark 15:16-32	Psalm 69:16-30
Friday	Jesus’ Death and Burial—Mark 15:33-47	Psalm 22
Saturday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Philippians 2:5-11

### The Catechism: Table of Duties—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors:

(Preschool and Kindergarten children review the primary texts of the first three commandments)

What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors? The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.	First Grade + 1 Corinthians 9:14
Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.	Second Grade + Galatians 6:6-7
The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:17-18

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

**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.

**Collect for the Feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus (March 19)**

Almighty God, from the house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother, Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding Your counsel and obeying Your commands; through Jesus Christ, 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:** Steve LaSage, David Nitzsche, and Jeanine Walentoski (3/18); Bonnie Zeretzke, Margit Rhode, Caleb Krueger (3/19); Megan Braunschweig (3/20); Martin Gehlbach (3/21); Luke Voss (3/22).

**The Sick:** Jon Lundberg, Karen Leach (mother of Peggy Lundberg), and Sid Franklin hospitalized, Carol David in therapy; Julie Goltermann; Bruce Fehr (friend of Anna Steinhilb), Bill Spilger, Tom Smith, Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig for cancer.

**Those in Hospice:** Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano); Karen (Mark Thoni’s aunt)

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“My Song Is Love Unknown” (stanzas 1-5)**

430

**Looking forward to Palm Sunday — Sunday of the Passion**

**March 24, 2024**

**Hymns: 334, 441, 440, 428, 431, 429, 432**

**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. Mark 14:1—15:47:** This year the Palm Sunday reading of the Passion is the account from the evangelist St. Mark. Mark’s account of the Passion (which means “suffering”) of our Lord is fervent and brief. He records the essential events of the Passion that are also recorded in the other Gospels, but he does so with a brevity that invites us to dwell most on Jesus alone rather than the other characters or principal players. Only Mark includes the account of the boy whose linen garment was stripped from him in the Garden, leaving him to run away naked. In this event we see a picture of each one of us who, left to ourselves, have nothing to offer to God. Indeed, the suffering and death of Jesus bids us to forsake ourselves, to let go of everything of ourselves upon which we might otherwise depend and trust in Jesus’ suffering and death alone for our salvation. We are naked, destitute, and beggarly. We must be clothed with the righteousness of the only One who is righteous: Christ Jesus. It is the Gospel of Jesus that calls us to faith, and it is the Gospel of Jesus that enables us to bear our cross and follow Him. Simon the Cyrenian, who was compelled to bear Jesus’ cross, has for centuries been held up as an example of what it is to be a Christian. He didn’t ask to be thrust into this role and, given the choice, he would not have chosen it for himself. Nevertheless, he was “compelled to carry the cross” even as we are “compelled” by the very grace of Christ alone to bear our cross, suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from Him who gave His life for us all. St. Mark’s account of the Passion culminates with the confession of the Centurion: “Truly this was the Son of God.” This is the goal of Mark’s Passion, that we all confess this same faith: Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our only Savior from sin.