

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For Holy Week / Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024, through March 31, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 31: A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Comfort for the Lord’s Deliverance —
 “Since He is our God and Savior, since He has redeemed me from all sin, death and the power of the devil, THEN I can be confident that He hears my prayers for His deliverance and I will give thanks to Him for the assurance of His answer to my prayers!” Confidence in God’s promises of deliverance rests in what Jesus has done for us in His death and resurrection. Christ is, therefore, the One who gives certainty and confidence to our prayers! In Psalm 31 we can hear Jesus’ own prayers. He faced every challenge for us! He endured in the confidence that His Father in heaven was His refuge and strength! And the Lord heard His prayers. In His suffering, persecution, and death, Jesus confidently commended Himself to His Father in heaven: “But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand; Deliver Me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute Me.” We pray these same prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and in the full assurance of faith, because we are joined to Him. It is for Jesus’ sake that we commend ourselves to God: “For You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.”
 As Jesus prayed these words with confidence from the cross, we are enabled to pray them with confidence in Him and in His redemption.

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: Truly Jesus Is the Son of God!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 11:28

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

Psalm 31:9-16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, You are my fortress and strength. In the righteousness of Your Son deliver me from all the forces that would seek to destroy my faith and confidence in You. Teach me to commend myself to your mercy and to believe with all my heart that my times are in Your hand for my eternal good; through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	93
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	136, 117

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	St. Mark Passion 14:1—15:47 (or Mark 15:1-47)	
Monday	Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest—John 18:1-27	Lamentations 3:19-33
	The Annunciation of Our Lord —Luke 1:26-38	
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—John 18:28-40	Isaiah 52:4-10
Wednesday	Lent: Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin -Mark 14:53-72/Sac. of the Altar	
Thursday	Jesus Is Crucified—John 19:1-24	Psalm 22
Friday	Jesus’ Side Is Pierced—John 19:25-42	Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Saturday	Job Confesses the Hope of the Resurrection—Job 19:23-27	1 Cor. 15:51-57

The Catechism: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors (Second Half)

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments.)

Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.

What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors? We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.	First Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:12
Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.	Second Grade + 1 Thessalonians 5:13
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.	Third Grade + Hebrews 13:17

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

Collect for Holy Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Annunciation of Our Lord: (March 25)

O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; through the same 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: Ann Carus, David Noack Jr., Emily Noack, Victor Prah (3/26).

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

Those in Hospice: Edna Gierach (mother-Bob Gierach), Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother-Nicola Giordano), Karen (aunt-Mark Thoni)

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Kyle Jacobsen (friend-Mary Ellen Nitzsche).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” (stanzas 1-4)

451

Looking forward to The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Week

March 31, 2024

Hymns: 461, 458, 457, 741, 747, 742, 633, 464

Job 19:23-27: The Old Testament Prophet Job lived perhaps 2,000 years before our Lord’s death and resurrection. His book chronicles the trials and tribulations that he endured. He had been a wealthy man and a faithful believer in the Lord, but Satan attacked him and brought all kinds of suffering into his life. He lost his wealth, his property, and his physical health. His children were killed, his wife renounced the faith, and his friends turned against him. Job was a man of unspeakable sorrow who endured unbearable spiritual, emotional, and physical pain. In this condition, the Old Testament Reading for Easter Sunday records Job’s confession of faith in Christ: “I know that my Redeemer lives.” Stripped of his health and every earthly support, the only thing that was left was the living faith that God had worked in his heart. This faith was made resilient through the things that he suffered and boldly confessed the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the body. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold...How my heart yearns within me!” This faith and hope is the ultimate comfort for every Christian.

I Cor. 15:51-57: The problem of sin’s corruption has affected us at every level of our being. But Jesus’ forgiveness, earned for us by His suffering and death upon the cross, will result in a complete transformation of our nature in the resurrection on the last day. Our mortal flesh will put on immortality and our corruptible flesh will put on incorruption, then the corruption of sin will be no more. None of the effects of sin will be manifest in us in the slightest. Death will forever be destroyed, and we will live eternally in the victory that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark 16:1-8: The scene of our Lord’s resurrection begins in a garden in the early morning on the first day of the week. The evangelist intends to remind us of creation and the Garden of Eden. After God finished His work on the sixth day of creation, man quickly turned away from the Lord’s Word and plunged himself and all of creation into sin and death. After Jesus finished His work on the sixth day of Holy Week, Jesus quickly rose from the dead and the new creation was born out of the forgiveness of sins that Jesus earned for us in His death. The women’s question, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” indicates that they and we were powerless to rescue ourselves from sin and death. Only Jesus could roll away the stone of death because only Jesus could conquer sin and vanquish the age-old Serpent’s power to condemn. The message of the resurrection Gospel is that Jesus is risen from the dead to give forgiveness, new life, and salvation to sinners. This message was to be proclaimed to all His disciples, and especially to broken and contrite sinners, like Peter, who had left the courtyard of the High Priest in misery and shame. “Go and tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is risen from the dead!”