

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent / Invocabit Sunday
 March 9, through March 16, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Pray for Your Pastors — This week we begin eleven weeks of meditation upon the biblical texts in the Table of Duties concerning Christian vocation. The first set of texts concerns those who are called to preach the Word of God: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers. There are not three different offices, but one office. Each word describes an aspect of their work. A bishop is an overseer. He is to supervise the doctrine and life of the congregation, along with the administration of the Sacraments so that everything is taught and done according to God’s Word. Pastor means shepherd. The Pastor “shepherds” the flock by calling to repentance, admonishing the erring, and bestowing forgiveness for Jesus’ sake to the penitent. The word “preacher” gets at the heart of the minister’s work: proclamation of the Word of God. “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” This section of the Table of Duties not only teaches us concerning the qualifications of our ministers, but it also encourages us all to “pray for our pastors” that they might remain faithful in the work God has called them to do.

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: We Live by Every Word that Proceeds from the Mouth of God!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Isaiah 55:11b

[My Word] shall not return to Me void,
 but it shall accomplish what I please,
 and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful God and Father, you forgive our transgressions and cover our sin with forgiveness, declaring us righteous for Jesus’ sake. Grant us a truly broken and contrite heart that we might truthfully confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be restored to the joy and gladness of Your salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	
Monday	Jesus Food Is to Do the Father’s Will—John 4:31-38	Psalm 40:4-10
Tuesday	The Nobleman’s Son Is Healed—John 4:(43-45) 46-54	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Wednesday	Midweek: Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Luke 22:14-30	Psalm 116:12-19
Thursday	The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15	Titus 3:3-8
Friday	The Jews Seek to Kill Jesus for Breaking the Sabbath—John 5:10-23	1 John 2:15-23
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Genesis 32:22-32	1 Thess. 4:1-7

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, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,	First Grade + 1 Timothy 3:2
not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 3:3-4

He must not be a recent convert,
or he may become conceited
and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

Third Grade +
1 Timothy 3:6

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,
so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine
and refute those who oppose it.

Fourth Grade +
Titus 1:9

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

Collect for the week of the First Sunday in Lent/Invocabit Sunday:

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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: Timothy Haga (3/10), Amber LaFore (3/11).

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

Birth: Olivia Marie Scheler (granddaughter of Alex & Jennifer Scheler) born March 4.

Engagement: Lucy Ficken and Isaiah Rohde who will be married May 3.

The Sick: Bob Meyer (father of Jenny Duessler) having cardiac valve replacement (3/10); Sharon Martin, and June Brueck recovering from surgery; Duane Perry-in rehab; David Berger gaining strength after feeding tube placement.

Cancer Treatment: Steven Jahnke (nephew of Donna Lovas)-whose cancer has spread to the bone, Gary Luderman, Rachel Preus, Tempy McCombe, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), and Rev. Luke Boehringer, in cancer treatment.

Those in hospice: Dave Evenstad (father-in-law of Erik Krueger).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken” (stanzas 1-4)

521

Looking forward to Reminiscere Sunday — The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Hymns: 579, 713, 716, 719, 725, 543, 740

Genesis 32:22 -32: When Jacob returns to meet his brother Esau who had threatened to kill him, he is left all alone before the Lord. In this wrestling match we are taught much about faith in Christ. The Lord WANTS us to wrestle with Him in prayer and to INSIST that He bless, protect, and deliver us according to the promises of His Word.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7: The holy life of faith in Christ lives in purity, denying the passion of lust and sexual immorality. Our bodies belong to the Lord who has redeemed us by offering up His own body upon the cross for our sanctification.

Matthew 15:21-28: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old” is the opening of the introit appointed for this Sunday, called in Latin, “Remember me” Sunday! In the appointed Gospel, the Gentile woman from Canaan cries out to Jesus for mercy because her daughter is severely demon-possessed. Her daughter needs His help and so does she! Every experience in the account would lead her to believe that the Lord does not love her or care about her salvation. It is not true! Jesus’ test of this woman reveals to us that the true nature of saving faith is that it does not rely upon any merit or worthiness within the sinner, but solely upon the promise of salvation in Christ. This woman believed the promise of salvation made to Abraham. She worshiped Jesus as her Savior because she knew and believed that she was “an unworthy Gentile dog!” She called upon the Lord to remember HIS mercy, and not to help her for any other reason than the promises that God’s own Word had made to unworthy sinners. This is why Jesus says, “O woman, great is your faith!” Her faith was great because the object of her faith was Christ alone and His promise of mercy. We cry out to Him in our time of need in the same way: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies....”