

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent / Oculi Sunday
 March 23, through March 30, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week — What is the work of the ministry? This week concludes the two sections from the Table of Duties concerning “Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers and What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors.” If we are admonished to hold our pastors “in the highest regard in love because of their work,” we should understand clearly what their work is and what we should expect of them. The minister’s work is clearly spelled out in our Lutheran Confessions: “According to divine right, therefore, it is the office of the bishop to preach the Gospel, forgive sins, judge doctrine and condemn doctrine that is contrary to the Gospel and exclude from the Christian community the ungodly whose wicked conduct is manifest. All this is to be done not by human power but by God’s Word alone. On this account [we] are bound to be obedient to the bishops according to the saying of Christ in Luke 10:16, ‘He who hears you hears me.’ On the other hand, if they teach, introduce, or institute anything contrary to the Gospel, we have God’s command not to be obedient in such cases, for Christ says in Matt. 7:15, ‘Beware of false prophets.’”

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: 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: John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Psalm 136 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, teach us to meditate upon your everlasting mercy in all that You have done and continue to do for us in Christ, from the creation and sustaining of the world in all its benefits to Your saving preserving, and sanctifying work in the Gospel of Your Son. Let us ever give thanks to You, for Your mercy endures forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49
Evening	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Strong Man Delivers Us from Satan’s Kingdom—Lk. 11:14-28	
Monday	Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven—John 6:22-44	1 Corinthians 10:1-22
Tuesday	Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	Hebrews 10:4-10
Wednesday	Midweek: Jesus’ Arrest—Luke 22:47-55	Proverbs 27:1-11
Thursday	Jesus Is Rejected by His Own—John 6:(45-46) 47-69	1 Cor. 11:17-34
Friday	Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles—John 7:1-24	Leviticus 23:33-44
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Exodus 16:2-21	Galatians 4:21-31

The Catechism: Table of Duties— 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
Obeys your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obeys 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 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.

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: Laura Schmitz (3/25), Ann Carus, David Noack, Emily Noack, Victor Prah (3/26).

The Sick: Duane Perry hospitalized; George Kaminski recovering from heart treatment, Rich Burger recovering from cardiac catheterization, June Brueck recovering from surgery.

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 (step-father of Erik Krueger).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Jesus, Lead Thou On” (stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to Laetare Sunday — The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Hymns: 642, 743, 622, 636, 774

Exodus 16:2-21: *Among the amazing things about the complaining of the children of Israel in the wilderness is that they had witnessed so many of the Lord’s mighty miracles of deliverance. Why would they still doubt Him? Faith only comes by the Word of God. No amount of miracles can convince the stubborn heart of sin. He fed them in the wilderness as a sign of His grace and mercy. The greatest miracle is the grace of God that such faithfulness proclaimed. His mercy in the Gospel is not only the greatest miracle, but the only thing that can move the stubborn heart to believe.*

Galatians 4:21-31: *The child born to Hagar was a symbol of trying to save oneself by one’s own work. Abraham and Sarah tried to “help God” keep His promise by having the servant Hagar have a child by Abraham. Ishmael was NOT the son of the promise. The son of the promise would be born not by the works of the law or any human effort, but by the free grace and promise that God made to Abraham and Sarah. We are not children of God by the Law, but children of God by the promise of the Gospel.*

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 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. Despite 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.*