

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of The Third Sunday in Lent
March 8 through March 15, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Pray for Your Pastor — *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. These 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: Jesus Is the Water of Life.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 95:1-9 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 95: O Lord, You are the Rock of our salvation and the great King above all gods. You are the Creator of all things and the Savior of all. We are the sheep of Your pasture. Grant us ever to hear Your voice and to worship You faithfully in humble and contrite hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132
Evening	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Lent 3: The Woman at the Well—John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]	
Monday	The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-35	John 12:1-8
Tuesday	The Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	John 12:9-11
Wednesday	The First Battle—Exodus 17:8-16	John 12:12-19
Thursday	Advice of Jethro, the Father-in-law of Moses—Exodus 18:1-27	John 12:20-26
Friday	Israel Encamps at Mount Sinai—Exodus 19:1-25	John 12:27-36
Saturday	Lent 4: Isaiah 42:14-21	Ephesians 5:8-14

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

Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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).

Military: Morgan Thoni (Navy); Katelyn Wittenburg (granddaughter of George and Sue Kaminski) and Evon Ingraham (Army National Guard); David Uttenreither and Christian McMiller (Army); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard).

The sick: Sandy Lueck undergoing testing; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) hospitalized with a fractured skull due to a fall; Sharon Murphy undergoing knee replacement surgery next Tuesday; Marion Ruhbusch, in a nursing home undergoing rehab; Bob Corso and Kathy May recovering at home following hospitalizations.

In cancer treatment: Bob Rothe, in ongoing treatment of stage 4 prostate cancer; Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Connie Gall (Marcy’s daughter-in-law), Rev. Gary Luderman (cousin of Larry Martin), and Rev. Dr. Daniel Paalova.

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

Hymn of the Week

“May God Bestow on Us His Grace” (Stanzas 1-2)

823

Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Hymns: 914, TLH 319, 615, 570, 574, 890

Isaiah 42:14-21: The Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, promising His help to those who have no hope and His salvation to those who cannot save themselves and forgiveness to those who know their sin and yearn for His salvation. We are blind if we do not “see” the reality of our sin and unbelief. We are deaf if we do not hear the true message of the Word of God that calls us to repentance and faith in Christ. The Lord promises to cause the blind to see and the deaf to hear. He promises to open hearts to faith and bestow upon them the light of His salvation and the comforting sound of His merciful voice.

Ephesians 5:8-14: Unbelief and impenitence is darkness. The Word of God gives light and calls us to repentance and faith. “Walk as children of light” is the call to walk by faith in Christ and all that He has given us that is good. It is the call to renounce and forsake all fellowship with darkness, because it is the life of unbelief that can only lead to destruction. The Apostle Paul encourages us against the remaining sinfulness of our flesh to walk in daily repentance.

John 9:1-41: Jesus’ healing of the man born blind and the subsequent excommunication of this man from the Temple illustrates the contrast between penitent faith in Christ and the blindness of unbelief. Those who believed that they could see were really blind because they refused to heed the call to repentance. Those who can truly see are not those who have no sin, but those who acknowledge their sin in repentant faith that clings to Christ. The man born blind became a disciple of Jesus because of the spiritual miracle that opened up his eyes to see who he really was and that Christ alone was his Savior. When Jesus came to the man born blind, He teaches us that faith clings to what Jesus says and does. The man reported to those who had known of his affliction the simple truths of what Jesus did and said: “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.” Jesus did things that human reason would place no value in: spittle, clay, and God’s Word applied to the eyes of a blind man. Whenever God’s Word is joined to earthly elements, extraordinary miracles take place. As they continued to press the man on what had happened, he replied very simply: “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” But they rejected the man’s testimony. Even though they knew that a miracle had taken place, they still persisted in the darkness of their unbelief. They closed their eyes to Him who is the Light of the world: “We do not know where Jesus is from.” But the man answered them, saying, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He has opened my eyes!” His simple confession cut across the darkness of their unbelief and clearly proclaimed that Jesus is the Christ.