

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 The Week of The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
 March 15 through March 22, 2026

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors”**— This section from the Table of Duties speaks of the responsibility of the congregation to provide temporal support for her pastor who faithfully preaches the Gospel and administers the Sacraments to her members. Every Christian is called by the Gospel to “share all good things with his instructor.” It is a mockery of God when members of the congregations turn a deaf ear to the Word of God and a hard heart toward the care of their pastors. Such neglect flows from impenitence and unbelief. Where there is faith there will be love, affection, and generous support of the Church's pastors by her members. Chief among the duties of Christians is the faithful hearing of the Word of God when it is preached and taught by our pastors. Pastors receive the greatest joy in their ministry when the people of the congregation come eagerly to hear the Word of God when it is taught, and receive it with joy and the hearty “Amen” of faith. The “Amen” of faith is confessed in the way in which the congregation takes care of her pastor.

## 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 Gives Sight to the Spiritually Blind!

#### Invocation

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

#### Apostles' Creed

#### Verse: Psalm 26:8

LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

#### Psalm 142 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on Psalm 142:** O Lord, I have no strength of my own to stand up against persecutors and those who would destroy my faith. You alone are my fortress and defender. I lay all my troubles before You. Deliver me from those who rise up against me. Grant me quiet confidence in Your help and protection, and surround me with righteous believers with whom I may enjoy the comforting fellowship of faithful Christian brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2
Evening	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3

#### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Lent 4: Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind—John 9:1-41</b>	
Monday	The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20:1-24 (25-26)	John 12:37-41
Tuesday	The Lord's Covenant with Israel—Exodus 23:20-24:18	John 12:42-50
Wednesday	<b>The Way, the Truth, and the Life—John 14:1-6</b>	<b>Isaiah 45:15-21</b>
Thursday	<b>St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23</b>	<b>Romans 4:13-18</b>
Friday	As the Father Has Loved Me—John 15:9-17	Jeremiah 31:2-9
Saturday	Lent 5: Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:1-11

#### Catechism: What the Hearers Owe their Pastors—First Half

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

<p>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.</p>	<p>First Grade +                      1 Corinthians 9:14</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Second Grade +                      Galatians 6:6-7</p>
<p>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.”</p>	<p>Third Grade +                      1 Timothy 5:17-18</p>

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

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

*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*  
**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:** Steven LaSage, David Nitzsche, Sarah Prom, Jeanine Walentoski (3/18), Caleb Krueger, Margit Rhode, Bonnie Zeretzke (3/19); Megan Braunschweig (3/20); Martin Gehlbach, James McMiller (3/21).

**Marriage:** Matthew Hendrickson & Rebekah Torkelson joined in Holy Matrimony yesterday.

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

**The sick:** Sandy Lueck in declining health; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) hospitalized with a fractured skull due to a fall; Sharon Murphy undergoing knee replacement surgery on Tuesday; Marion Ruhbusch undergoing rehab; Bob Corso recovering at home following hospitalization.

**In cancer treatment:** Bob Rothe, in ongoing treatment to manage 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 Douglas May (paternal grandfather of Sarah May and Rachel Haga).

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“God Loved the World So that He Gave”**

571

**Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 22, 2026**

**Hymns:** 420, 552, 755, 685, 490, 548

**Ezekiel 37:1-14:** *In the Nicene Creed we confess that the Holy Spirit “is the Lord and giver of life,” the very “breath of God” by which we live. In this prophecy, Ezekiel sees the resurrection of the body on the last day at which time the dead will be raised and the Holy Spirit will breathe new and immortal life into the bodies of the dead.*

**Romans 8:1-11:** *The Holy Spirit not only gives life to our bodies, but also life to our souls. It is the Holy Spirit who creates faith and who leads us in the way of faith. To be “in the Spirit” or to be “led by the Spirit” is to be led by faith in the Gospel of Christ and in daily repentance for sin. To be “led by the Spirit” means that, through faith in the Gospel, the Spirit brings forth in us the “fruits of faith” in love and good works, even as the Spirit is the source of our resurrection from the dead.*

**John 11:1-45:** *Jesus allowed Lazarus to die “for the glory of God” that He might raise him from the dead. In the sign of Lazarus coming back to life again, Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the Lord of life. He is the conqueror of death because He is the source of forgiveness. Since sin brings death and separation from God, where there is forgiveness of sins there must also be life and salvation. Jesus, therefore, confesses to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”*