

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 The Week of The Fifth Sunday in Lent
 March 22 through March 29, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week — What the Hearers Owe Their Pastor? The second half of the section of the Table of Duties, which speaks of the responsibility that “hearers of God’s Word” have for their pastors, highlights the respect and honor pastors are to receive because of the work God has given them to do. They are called to preach the Gospel, judge doctrine, administer the Sacraments, remit and retain sin, and guard the flock from the assaults of false doctrine and impenitence. They are accountable to God for being faithful to what He has called them to do. “Hearers of God’s Word” are to respect and honor their pastors, not because they have no sin or shortcomings, but because they are faithful in the work that they are called to do on the Lord’s behalf.

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 Resurrection and the Life!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 10:2

The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few;
 therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Psalm 130 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 130: O Lord, when my soul is languishing in the depths of my sin, grant me faith to call upon You for forgiveness and the courage to wait upon Your word of mercy for comfort and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Lent 5: The Raising of Lazarus—John 11:1-45	
Monday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—John 12:1-11	Deuteronomy 15:7-11
Tuesday	Palm Sunday—John 12:12-26	Psalm 118:1-20
Wednesday	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1-20 The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38	Exodus 40:1-33
Thursday	A New Commandment Is Given—John 13:21-38	Psalm 41
Friday	Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-26	Hebrews 4:11-16
Saturday	Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11

Catechism: What the Hearers Owe their Pastors—Second Half

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the, first, second, and third commandments.)

You shall have no other gods. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	
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 the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

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
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: Luke Voss (3/22); Laura Schmitz (3/25); Ann Carus, David Noack, Emily Noack, Victor Prael (3/26).

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

The sick: Sandy Lueck in treatment for weakened heart; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) slowly recovering from a fractured skull; Sharon Murphy recovering from knee replacement surgery; Marion Ruhbusch undergoing rehab; Bob Corso recovering from complications after surgery.

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.

Remembering: We with the family of James Nitzsche recall the loving-kindness of the Lord shown to and through James during his life.

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

Hymn of the Week

“Christ the Life of All the Living” (Stanzas 1-3)

420

Looking forward to Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

Hymns: 443, 440, 435, 437, 756, 422

Isaiah 50:4-9a: The prophet Isaiah records many “Servant Songs” which are prophetic confessions of our Savior’s work as the One who came to give His life in service to us. In this reading, Jesus highlights His own willing submission to the Father’s will for our salvation: “The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. ⁵The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. ⁶I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. ⁷“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.” Because our Lord was the faithful suffering Servant on our behalf, the Father accepted His sacrifice and, though He endured the shame of the cross, He was not put to shame but rose from the dead as our righteous Savior.

Philippians 2:5-11: Though He was God, Jesus “humbled Himself” to the point of death upon a cross. This section of Paul’s letter to the Philippians was probably used as a portion of the liturgy of the early church. It illustrates the mystery of our salvation. Man did not ascend to God to make amends for sin. He could not. God descended to us in the person of His Son and redeemed us by becoming a curse for us. Thanks be to God! Therefore, “God also has highly exalted Him.”

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew 26:1—27:66: Each Gospel highlights different aspects of Our Lord’s Passion. Unique to St. Matthew’s Passion is the message from Pilate’s wife: “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.” What does it mean? Pilate’s wife was tormented in her soul and conscience. Jesus and His Gospel are unsettling to sinful man. We either embrace it in faith or we flee from it. Pilate’s wife, like so many, did not want to face the reality of her own sin and the need for salvation that only this Man could provide. It was too much for her to bear. “Let us have nothing to do with Him! I cannot bear him!” Like so many, Pilate’s wife recognized the righteousness of Christ, but still she was unwilling to let go of herself and embrace Him in faith. Unique also to the Passion according to St. Matthew is the prophecy that proceeds out of the mouth of the people at the end of the trial before Pilate: “His blood be on us and on our children!” Indeed, this is the way it must be or we cannot be saved.