

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Quinquagesima – February 11th, 2024

Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order

Invocation

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

Psalm 32

Verse of the Month

Luke 8:15 “The ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656/TLH 262)

Reading from Holy Scripture

Members may choose...

- Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children’s The Story Bible (CPH)

- Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB p. 299-304)

Looking forward to Invocabit (First Sunday in Lent)

Monday: Genesis 3:1-21

Tuesday: II Corinthians 6:1-10

Wednesday: Matthew 4:1-11

Thursday: In the Garden man exalts himself to be a god in place of God. (Gen 3:1-21) He succumbs to the temptation of the devil, and eating of the forbidden fruit he receives death. But in the sin-cursed wilderness God humbles Himself to become man in place of man. (Mt 4:1-11) He does not eat but fasts and bears the onslaughts of the devil for us that we may be restored to life. Jesus stands as David in our place to do battle against the Goliath Satan. (I Samuel 17:40-51) Though outwardly Jesus appears weak, yet He comes in the name of the Lord of hosts. He draws from the five smooth stones of the books of Moses and slings the Word of God. The stone sinks into the forehead, and the enemy falls. In Christ we are victorious over the devil. Let us therefore not receive the grace of God in vain (2 Cor 6:1-10), but seeing that we have a great High Priest, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain help in time of need (Heb 4:14-16).

Catechism for the Week: Confession

What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you

forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23]

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we beseech You that, whereas the wicked enemy constantly stalks us, and as a roaring lion walks around, seeking whom he may devour, You would for the sake of Christ, Your Son, come to our aid and by Your Word strengthen our hearts, that the foe may not overpower us, but that we may abide in Your grace eternally and at last obtain salvation. Amen

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Ronald Baumgart, Carrie Strueder

Lord’s Prayer

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Month

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus (LSB 685/TLH 409)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 174-185

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)