

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Quinquagesima – March 2, 2025

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

Matthew 4:10: Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

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 Invocavit (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: Sacrament of the Altar III & IV

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are

the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

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:

Mark Siddons

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.

Mealttime 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

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing (LSB 421/TLH 144)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 195-207
From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)