

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Oculi – March 23, 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 132:8-18

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

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (LSB 743/TLH 347)

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 Laetare (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Monday: Exodus 16:2-21

Tuesday: Galatians 4:22-5:1a

Wednesday: John 6:1-15

Thursday: The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness. (Ex 16:2-21) Now He who is Himself the Living Bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the 5000. (Jn 6:1-15) This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude followed Jesus across the Sea, when He went up on a mountain. Thus we see that Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mt. Sinai and makes us free children of the promise. (Gal 4:21-31) Five loaves become twelve baskets, that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the Bread of Life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers. (Acts 2:41-47) So it is that God's people "shall neither hunger nor thirst." (Is 49:8-13) For He abundantly provides for them in both body and soul.

Catechism for the Week: Luther's Evening Prayer

In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *Then kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little 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. *Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.*

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, who by Your Son in the wilderness bountifully fed five thousand men, besides women and children, with only five loaves and two fish: we beseech You graciously to visit us also with Your blessings and to protect us from covetousness and cares for this life, that we may seek first Your kingdom and righteousness, and mercifully be made to know Your generous, fatherly goodness in all our needs of body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons, Brian Blawat

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

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. 226-235
From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)