

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Quinquagesima

March 3, 2019 through March 9, 2019

**Notes for the Week: Worthy Reception of the Sacrament**—As with any gift, the gift of the Lord's Supper can be misused, and such misuse can be harmful. This is what St. Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 11:27-28. The body and blood of Christ which bore and was shed for our sins is given for the good of repentant sinners who confess the Lord Jesus, His work of salvation for us, and who believe His words concerning the Sacrament. This is why Christians are instructed and absolved before they begin to receive the Sacrament. St. Paul speaks to every Christian when he says that we are to examine ourselves before we commune. Dr. Luther prepared a series of questions and answers for those who intend to go to the Sacrament (LSB p. 329-330). They are a tremendous aid in teaching us to confess our sins which we have committed against God and His Word, and to cling in faith to our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and shed His blood for us, and who gives us His true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. Confessing what the Sacrament is, and recognizing our great need for it, we are worthy and well-prepared, for we then believe Christ's own word: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." The reason the Church practices closed communion is out of care for those who commune. Pastors are not the owners or lords of the Sacrament, but they are the "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor 4:1), charged with administering Christ's gifts in accordance with His institution, and for the good of those who receive them.

## 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 catechism and hymn of the week.

### Theme of the Week: The Lord's Call to Follow Him in Faith

#### Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

#### Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:27

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord."

#### Psalm 22

#### Daily Readings

Sunday, March 3 – Luke 18:31-43 *A Blind Man Receives His Sight*  
Monday, March 4 – Ezra 1:1-11 *The End of the Babylonian Captivity*  
Tuesday, March 5 – Ezra 3:1-13 *The Rebuilding of the Temple*  
Wednesday, March 6 – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6 *Nehemiah's Prayer*  
Thursday, March 7 – Nehemiah 7:73-8:12 *Ezra Reads the Books of Moses*  
Friday, March 8 – Nehemiah 9:1-38 *The Israelites Confess Their Sins*  
Saturday, March 9 – Look ahead to Sunday's readings

#### The Catechism – The Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*Where is this written?*

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?*

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

**Prayers**

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Ken & Joanne Jones	Don Bruckner
Our Synod & sister Churches	Betty Rasmussen	Barb Grage
President Matthew Harrison	Raymond Stevens	Marleen Muenster
President Richard Snow	Louise Sullivan	Maxine Ashton
Our Seminaries	Kyle Einspahr	Jim Jorgensen
Our Nation	Annie Carbullido	Joanne Dobrusky
President Donald Trump	Jody Ragan	Sharon Duncan
Governor "Pete" Ricketts	Paul Luedeman	Susan Lutz
Mayor Jean Stothert	Stephen Grobeck	Shayla Gerike
Josh & Coco Lange	Doug Pietramale	Andrew Gerike
David & Valerie Federwitz & family	Vic Lambrecht	
Steven & Cynthia Schumacher	Bryan Drebes	

Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer**

**Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

*(Morning)* 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)* 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.

**Hymn of the Season: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word** LSB 655

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| <p>1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;<br/>Curb those who by deceit or sword<br/>Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son<br/>And bring to naught all He has done.</p> | <p>2. Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,<br/>For You are Lord of lords alone;<br/>Defend Your holy Church that we<br/>May sing Your praise eternally.</p> |
| <p>3. O Comforter of priceless worth,<br/>Send peace and unity on earth;<br/>Support us in our final strife<br/>And lead us out of death to life.</p>                    |  |