

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Fourth Sunday in Lent, Laetare – March 22, 2020

If you have not taken your hymnal home contact Pastor Grady and it will be delivered.

I will simply place it in a zip lock bag and leave it on the doorstep. Wipe it down with a Lysol wipe when you receive it. I will do the same as I put it in the bag. It is your families and a treasure trove of Lutheran resources for devotion and prayer! The Daily Prayers, to be used for family devotions, can be found beginning on page 294. Prayers, Intercessions and Thanksgivings, for almost any occasion, begin on page 305.

Dear Saints of Advent,

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 the 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.”*

Dr. Martin Luther says in his Small Catechism concerning who worthily receives the Sacrament *“...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.”*

Our 8th graders have completed their study, as it pertains to Confirmation class. At this point in time, Pastor Mackay and I believe they are ready to make their Confirmation vows. It is certainly good, right and salutary that the 8th grade class be receiving the body and blood of our Lord in the Sacrament He has given to His Church. We have set aside times for all, individuals and families, of our congregation to receive the Sacrament. A signup link has been placed on the website, available here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4eadac29a4fb6-home> . We have asked these families to sign up for a time they can be present together. At that time, we will confirm and then give the Sacrament to the newly confirmed along with their family.

You might wish to review what we have asked them to review. Read through *Christian Questions with Their Answers* with them. They can be found in Luther’s Small Catechism and in your hymnal beginning on page 329. Also read through Confirmation with them on page 272 in your hymnal. These are both good reviews and reminders of the faith we confess before God our Father.

At a later date we will have a public recognition of their Confirmation Vows within the Divine Service. For now, it is right that they should receive this gift of God that He has given through His Son.

In Christ,

Pastor Grady & Pastor Mackay

Daily Prayer LSB pp 294-298 Pray and confess out loud the **Daily Prayer – For Individuals and Families** as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Use the one appropriate for the time of day your devotion takes place. Include the Apostles Creed before The Lord’s Prayer if the setting you regularly use does not include it so as to confess it daily. Learn by heart the catechism, and hymn of the week.

Psalm 132:8–18; antiphon: v. 13 (*This is the psalm for the current week of the church year.*)

Prayer on the Psalm: O, Lord, we praise You for dwelling with us. Clothe us with the righteousness and salvation of Your Anointed One, Jesus Christ, our King, in His name. Amen. (Lutheran Study Bible ESV)

<i>Daily Psalms</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Morning	60, 61	65	66	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	72	74	77	79

Hymn of the Week: LSB 743 – Jesus Priceless Treasure

(Text – Johann Frank, 1618-77; Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Tune – Johann Cruger, 1598-1662
The tune can be found on the web. Search “JESU, MEINE FREUDE”

Readings for the week...

Sundays Lectionary Readings (each chapter could be reviewed) – Isaiah 49:8-13; Acts 2:41-47; John 6:1-15

Readings for the week from Lutheran Catechesis are as follows...

Day	Bible Readings
Monday	Matthew 16:1-12 – The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign
Tuesday	Matthew 16:13-23 – The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke
Wednesday	Matthew 16:24-28 – Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me
Thursday	Matthew 17:1-13 – The Transfiguration
Friday	Matthew 17:14-21 – A Boy is Healed

Prayers - Weekly Collect - Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Daily Themes for Prayer:

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God’s Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and the despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly school, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival for those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord’s Day.*

In Our Prayers: Prayer requests will now be included in the emailed version of Advent Announcements. If you did not receive a copy of them via email, please contact the office to have your name added to the email provider list.

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday in Lent, Judica – March 29, 2020

Hymns Next Week 563, 430, 630 – 437 – 543, 655

Texts (Following the One-Year Lectionary, page xx in your hymnal): **Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 8:42-45; 46-59**