

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Judica – March 29, 2020

If you have not taken your hymnal home contact Pastor Grady and he will deliver it to your

home. 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,

This has been a trying week for the whole world and while we hope and pray the end of this infectious turmoil is near we have should have no fear. God has not turned His back. His promise is exactly the opposite for those who abide in Him. (Matt. 28:20) “But pastor, am I abiding in Him enough?” The “in Him” is He in us. Through Holy Baptism you have been made a child of God. Your heart of stone that was dead, blind and an enemy of God has been circumcised. It has been cut out and replaced with a new heart in which the Holy Spirit dwells. It is a heart at peace with the turmoil and troubles of the world because in it dwells Christ our good Shepherd. Where our Good Shepherd guides us we are not to fear... even unto death, (Ps 23) because He has shattered the curse of death with His own death and resurrection!

Perhaps your life is not totally upended at this time... more of an inconvenience. Possibly you are concerned for your employees, how you will provide for them. You may have woken up this week with a cough and thought “Lord... is this the beginning of the end for me? Even my family?” Fear not little flock for we have a gracious and loving God that is still has all things in control. Sin and destruction will rage, yet as we cry out to the living God, our GOD, we know the battle is already won!

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*

³ But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

⁴ Be angry, and do not sin;

ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*

⁵ Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶ There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?”

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!”

⁷ You have put more joy in my heart

than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

Are you and your family desiring the Lord's Supper? Times have been set aside for individuals and families of our congregation to receive the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. A signup has been placed on the website and is available here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4eadac29a4fb6-home> .

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 43; antiphon: v. 5 (*This is the psalm for the current week of the church year.*)

Prayer on the Psalm: Lead me to Your dwelling, O God, my God, and open my mouth with Your praise and song. Amen. (Lutheran Study Bible ESV)

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92
Evening	81	83	80	87	90	93	94

Hymn of the Week: LSB 430 – My Song Is Love Unknown

(Text – Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-83; Tune – John N. Ireland, 1879- 1962)

The tune can be found on the web. Search "LOVE UNKNOWN"

Readings for the week...

Sundays Lectionary Readings (each chapter could be reviewed) – Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 8:42-45; 46-59

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

Day	Bible Readings
Monday	Matthew 17:22-27 – Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection
Tuesday	Matthew 18:1-14 – Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven
Wednesday	Matthew 18:15-22 – If Your Brother Sins
Thursday	Matthew 18:22-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
Friday	Matthew 19:1-12 – Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce

Prayers:

Weekly Collect - Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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.*

Specific prayer request can now be found in the announcements that are emailed weekly to all members.

Looking forward to Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020

Hymns Next Week 442, 444, 602 – 631 – 423, 441

Texts Following the One-Year Lectionary: **Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1 – 27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54**