

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the week of the Second Sunday in Lent
March 4, 2007 through March 11, 2007*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The First Article of the Creed — "All that I am and all that I have comes from God. Apart from Him I am and have nothing." These assertions are central to the Christian teaching concerning God. They declare that we, and all of creation, are completely dependent upon Him. Even when we abuse the life and gifts that He has given, we do so by His power in us. This is what makes such evil all the more blasphemous! Martin Luther's Creedal Hymn confesses both our dependence upon God and His love for us that motivates Him to create, provide, protect, and defend us. "We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven, the Father who to us in love hath the right of children given. He both soul and body feedeth. All we need He doth provide us. He through snares and perils leadeth, watching that no harm betide us; He careth for us day and night. All things are governed by His might." The Catechism helps us to understand that what He has made and given is ALWAYS good, even if our sinful human reason might not think so and might even rebel against such gifts. There is great freedom in the gift of faith that accepts the truths of the First Article. All Christians, the deaf, the blind, and the lame, still confess that God has made them, including their "eyes, ears, and all their members," even if they don't work the way they want them to work. God's created gifts are given AS THEY ARE, that we might learn to trust in Him through these gifts, extolling Him alone as God and relying upon His grace in our weakness.

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 verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Faith Hangs on to Christ and His Word Alone.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 John 4:9

In this the love of God was manifested toward us,
that God has sent His only begotten son into the world, that we might live through Him.

Psalm 25 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, our most merciful Father in heaven, be gracious to us and forgive us our sins. Rule in our hearts by Your Spirit, that we may hate and forsake all manner of evil. Restrain our enemies who would deprive us of our salvation, and be to us, and Your whole Church a very present help in time of need; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	38	22	43	84
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: The First Article

What is the First Article of the Creed?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.
He also gives me clothing and shoes,
food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. Second Grade +
He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

Preschool +

First Grade +

Second Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Week of Lent II

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
Monday	The Handwriting on the Wall—Daniel 5:1-30	Genesis 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
Tuesday	Daniel and the Lions' Den—Daniel 6:1-23	Genesis 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
Wednesday	Passion: Jesus Celebrates the Passover— Luke 22:14-30	Genesis 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
Thursday	Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts—Daniel 7:1-28	Genesis 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
Friday	Daniel's Prayer—Daniel 9:1-6, 17-27	Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67	Mark 8:1-21
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Genesis 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38
Sunday	Sunday's Readings for Lent III	Gen. 27:30-45; 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of the Second Sunday in Lent:

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Lenten Season:

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; 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; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Academy, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; 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; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

In Our Prayers this Week

*The family and friends of Carole Kildahl who mourn her death.
 Dan Gabel, recuperating from elbow surgery.
 Diehl Martin, friend of the Goltermann's, undergoing treatment for Pancreatic Cancer.
 Those suffering in various stages of cancer: Frieda (Erna DeRidder's sister), Marvin Schmidt (brother of Arnold), and Tom DeRidder.*

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

"I Know My Faith Is Founded" (Stanzas 1)

587

Look forward to the Third Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2007

Hymns: 583, 659, 628, 663 (st. 2, 4, 5)

Jeremiah 26:1-15; Ephesians 5:1-9; Luke 11:14-28

Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the word of the Lord. (Jer 26:1-15) So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak. (Lk 11:14-28) But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard. (Ex 8:16-24) They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord. (Eph 5:1-9) As children of light our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us. In a world where demons roam we confess, "My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net." (Introit)