

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For Holy Week

March 16, 2008 through March 23, 2008

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Hearers of the Word and Our Lord's Passion** —During this week of our Lord's Passion we begin to meditate upon the texts of the Table of Duties that speak concerning what "Hearers of God's Word" owe their pastor. These passages are best understood in light of Jesus who is our faithful Shepherd. He was absolutely faithful to His heavenly Father for us and for our salvation. When He speaks His Word to us it is true, life-giving, and saving. We can't live without His Word that calls us to repentance and that bestows upon us the blessings that He earned for us upon the cross. Our pastor's stand in Christ's stead speaking and teaching His Word on Jesus' behalf. Christians are those who hear the Word, repent of their sin, receive Christ's forgiveness, believe in Him, and live in love toward others in their vocation. We need our pastors because our pastors give us Jesus' saving Word. That is why the hearers of God's Word are called to support their pastors with their temporal gifts so that their pastors can give their fulltime service to the ministry of God's Word upon which Christians depend.

## 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: His Blood Be on Us and On Our Children!

#### Invocation

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

#### Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 26:8

Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house,  
And the place where Your glory dwells.

#### Psalm 116 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, You are always faithful to me. You give me promises of salvation. You forgive my sins. You keep Your Word. You hear my prayers and answer them. Grant me to love You all the days of my life and to cast every burden upon You, knowing that You are my faithful and merciful Savior who never withdraws Your love from me, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

#### The Catechism: The Table of Duties— What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors—First Half

What does God's Word say the hearers of God's Word owe their pastors? The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.	First Grade + 1 Corinthians 9:14
Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.	Second Grade + Galatians 6:6-7
The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:17-18

#### Readings for Holy Week

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Passion According to St. Matthew—Matthew 26:1—27:66	Exodus 8:1-32	Hebrews 1:1-14
Monday	Israel Journeys to the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:9	Exodus 9:1-28	Hebrews 2:1-18
Tuesday	The Lord Fights for Israel—Exodus 14:10-31	Exodus 9:29-10:20	Hebrews 3:1-19
Wednesday	PASSION: Jesus' Death and Burial—Matthew 27:27-44	Exodus 10:21-11:10	Hebrews 4:1-16
Thursday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19	Exodus 12:1-28	Hebrews 5:1-14
Friday	No School—Good Friday	Ex.12:29-32; 13:1-16	Hebrews 6:1-20
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Exodus 13:17-14:9	Hebrews 7:1-22
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Exodus 14:10-31	Hebrews 7:23-8:13

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

*Collect for Holy Week:*

**Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

*In Our Prayers this Week*

- Don Weber, recuperating from leg by-pass surgery.*  
*Lyle Sturtz, friend of the Bender's, suffering with bone cancer.*  
*Lorraine Jones, Palmer Watson's sister, in hospice care.*

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

**Hymn of Week**

**"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" (Stanza 1)**

**438**

**Looking forward Easter/The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**March 23, 2008**

**Hymns:** 457, 467 (1-4), 464, 458, 461, 487, 465, 467 (5-7)

**Exodus 14:10-15:1:** *Salvation is entirely God's work as a gift of His grace, without any merit, worthiness, or strength of faith on our part. This is made clear in the Lord's deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea. When they were trembling in faithless fear, the Lord acted according to His Word that promised salvation: Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today ... The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." After the Lord brought Israel safely through the Red Sea to victory, they rightly confessed the glory of His saving Word: "I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"*

**I Corinthians 15:1-11:** *St. Paul declares that the Gospel rests upon Jesus' death and resurrection that unfolded historically according to the Holy Scriptures. The Word of God that announced death to man when he turned away from God's Word, is the same Word that brings salvation from sin as Jesus dies and rises according to the Scriptures. The source of all life and salvation is in the faithful Word of God which is fulfilled for our salvation in what Jesus accomplished for us according to the Scriptures when He took all our sin upon Himself and fully atoned for our transgressions. Since He fulfilled the Law's demands according to the Scriptures, it is impossible for death to hold Him and He rises from the dead with life and salvation for all.*

**Matthew 28:1-10:** *The Lord's atonement for sin in His death upon the cross shook the whole of creation with a great earthquake and brought life and immortality to light in the resurrection of the dead. Sin is atoned for and life and salvation spring forth from Jesus' saving work. The angel in brilliant white vestments announced the message of salvation in the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection from the dead! This message is feared by those who do not believe and it is the source of the greatest comfort for those who do believe. "Do not be afraid" the angel declared, "Jesus who was crucified is risen as He said!" The Lord was faithful to His Word. "Go quickly and tell His disciples...Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." The Lord's resurrection from the dead is the concrete expression of our forgiveness and salvation. There is no greater message of comfort than the Lord's resurrection from the dead, because it means that salvation is absolutely guaranteed for those who believe. The message of the Gospel is true, the message of the Gospel saves, and that is why at the heart of the Lord's resurrection is the ongoing preaching of Christ's victory over sin, death, and hell.*