

#### The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer For the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent March 23 through March 29

- Invocation make the sign of the cross and say...
  In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- The 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 .

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



### **Morning or Evening Prayer**

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.



# Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks

Blessing before meal

"The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Ps. 145: 15–16)

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Returning Thanks after meal "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love." (Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

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## **Pray the Psalms**

Lent	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	84, 150	119:73-80; 145	34, 146	5, 147:1-12	27, 147:13- 21	22, 148	43, 149
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	105, 130	31, 143



# Verse of the Week: 2 Peter 3:9b, c

[The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.



## **Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Sunday** ......Jeremiah 6:9-15; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Mark 5:1-20

Monday ............ Jeremiah 7:1-15; Romans 4:1-12; John 7:14-26

**Tuesday.....** Jeremiah 7:21-34; Romans 4:13-25; John 7:37-52

Wednesday....Jeremiah 8:4-7, 18-9:6; Romans 5:1-11; John 8:12-20

Thursday ....... Jeremiah 10:11-24; Romans 5:12-21; John 8:21-32

Friday......Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-17; Romans 6:1-11; John 8:33-47

**Saturday**..........Jeremiah 13:1-11; Romans 6:12-23; John 8:47-59



#### The Collect for the Week

**Third Sunday in Lent** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## **Catechism Portion for the Week**

The Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer "But deliver us from evil." - In Genesis 3 we read of the first temptation and work of evil perpetrated on human beings. Of course I refer to our first parents, Adam and Eve, and their encounter with the devil in the form of a serpent. The devil tempts Adam and Eve with what had been expressly forbidden. They had been told by the Lord that in the day they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would surely die. This was an evil act by the tempter to lead our first parents astray. But the enticement worked because something twisted was at work inside of the first human beings. They doubted God's goodness and sought in their own wisdom to decide what was good. Although Adam and Eve were fashioned in the image of God, they somehow desired to be more like God to the point that they would not need to depend on their maker. As the generations ensued, from the genetic makeup of our first parents in their rebellion and disobedience, the collective wisdom of the world also came to serve as an enemy. So there you have it, our three archenemies: the devil, the world, and the flesh (our sinful nature). As Christians, we pray that God would rescue us from evil, especially from eternal damnation. And this is a request God is happy to grant to all who repent and believe in Christ and what He accomplished by dying and rising for us.



# Portion of the Catechism and Luther's Explanation

#### The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

#### What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour

comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.



#### Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism

Prayer based on The Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer - Father in heaven, look on our neediness with the eyes of Your mercy and compassion. Rescue us from everything that would cause harm and destruction to us both physically and spiritually. Keep us in the true faith and finally bring us through the disappointments and sorrows of this life to live with You forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 278]



#### **Intercessory Prayer**

- Heather Wesner (Jessica Schoonover's sister with breast and stomach cancer)
- Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain.
- † For Jerrod Benrud (the son of Heide Fehr's cousin from injuries he sustained falling off a deck.
- ⊕ For Karla Reagle (Lee Fehr's daughter) for a healthy pregnancy and delivery.
- † For Jeffrey William (Heather Roll's brother for the loss Natalie)
- † For Laura (Bartos) Corey with a broken rib



#### Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday's Lessons

**824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace:** *stnz 1* May God bestow on us His grace, With blessings rich provide us; And may the brightness of His face To life eternal guide us, That we His saving health may know, His gracious will and pleasure, And also to the nations show Christ's riches without measure And unto God convert them. *stnz 2* Thine over all shall be the praise And thanks of ev'ry nation; And all the world with joy shall raise The voice of exultation. For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suffer sin to flourish; Thy people's pasture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and nourish, In righteous paths to keep them. *stnz 3* O let the people praise Thy worth, In all good works increasing; The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth, Thy Word is rich in blessing. May God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit bless us! Let all the world praise Him alone, Let solemn awe possess us. Now let our hearts say, "Amen!" Text: Public domain

For March 30, 2025, Fourth Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 12:1-6 "The Lord ... has become my salvation."; Psalm 32 "I acknowledged my sin to You."; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 Parable of the prodigal son.