

Congregation in Prayer Mar 13, 2016

Throughout the weekends in Lent we are taking a look at the greatest story ever told – the account of the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This week we see how people responded to the words and works of Jesus. Their reaction was divided –either they believed His claims or they rejected them and plotted to have Him killed. There was no middle ground. [Jn 12:37-50; Mt 16:13-26]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: The Greatest Story Ever Told
A STORY that divides – believe it or not!

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers <i>The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 1 Tim. 3:2–4</i>	First Grade+
<i>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 1 Tim. 3:6</i>	Second Grade+
<i>He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9</i>	Third Grade+

Daily Bible Readings

Monday: Lk 4:14-30 Jesus rejected at Nazareth
Tuesday: Jn 7:45-52 the unbelief of Jewish leaders
Wednesday: Mt 23 Jesus confronts the Pharisees
Thursday: Jn 20:1-19 Jesus authority questioned
Friday: Jn 20:20-47 Jesus responds to hard questions
Saturday: looking ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray for those who help lead us in worship: our Pastors, our Elders, our organists. Pray that God's people are actively engaged as they worship. Pray for those who serve in our military and for our chaplains as they proclaim the Gospel.

Monday: Pray for the unemployed and underemployed; pray for the homeless in our community; pray for the ministries of DayBreak and MorningStar in our community; pray for the ministry of Feed My Starving Children.

Tuesday: Pray for our CrossRoad Life Recovery ministry and its leaders. Pray that this important ministry would continue to expand among us and through us. Pray that it might impact other congregations and communities around the country.

Wed: Pray for the ministries of our congregation: Braille, CrossRoad Life Recovery, DayBreak, Operation Christmas Child, Quilters, Sunny Hill, Spiritual Vitamins. Pray that new ministries might be developed among us that will impact lives through our serving.

Thursday: Pray also for ministries in our community: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet Area Hospice, Lambs Fold, Living Alternatives, Stepping Stones, Trinity Services.

Friday: Pray for our communities and neighborhoods; for our words of witness and acts of mercy to our neighbors.

Saturday: Pray that people would see the need to come to worship this weekend. Pray that we would be a welcoming, non-judgmental community of faith for them as they come.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Lk 19:28-38 Palm Sunday

Mk 15: 16-39 the Passion of the Christ