

## Congregation at Prayer April 2, 2017

Lent is a penitential season in which we consider our sins that led Jesus to the cross. These are the sins for which we repent and confess. Lent is, at the same time, a season in which we are more aware of God's grace to us in Christ Jesus. For this we give thanks and rejoice! [Ezek 37:1-14; Rom 8:1-11; Jn 11:1-45]

### 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:** New Life in Jesus

**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 12:9 (ESV)** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**From the Catechism** (Read together and discuss briefly)

<b>The Fourth Commandment</b> Honor your father and your mother.  <i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.	<b>Second Grade +</b>
<b>Of Civil Government</b>  Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong-doer. Rom. 13:1-4	<b>Fifth Grade +</b>

### **Daily Bible Readings**

Monday	"Before Abraham Was, I AM"—John 8:42-59
Tuesday	St. John Passion: Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—12:1-11
Wednesday	St. John Passion: Palm Sunday—12:12-26

Thursday	St. John Passion: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet—13:1-20
Friday	St. John Passion: A New Commandment—13:21-38
Weekend	

## Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray that the joy of the Resurrection would be seen in us; that the fruits of faith, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, would be evident in us and among us.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of your Baptism; for your calling and daily work; pray for your family members by name. Pray for those you know who are not yet believers in Jesus or who are unchurched that they would come to know and respond to the Savior's love for them.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance in the face of temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those caught in cycle of sinful behavior.

Wed: Pray for marriage and family: that husbands and wives, parents and children live in harmony according to the Word of God; for families devastated by divorce; for parents who must raise children alone.

Thursday: Pray for Christ's Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for the faithful and fruitful use of Word and Sacrament among us.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sharing of the Good News of His death and Resurrection in our neighborhoods and throughout the whole world. Pray for the sick and dying. Pray that you would have compassion for them and their families going through difficult days.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end for His people; 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 gifts of Word and Sacrament.

## 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)

Is. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11; John 12:12-19; John 12:20-43