

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of the Third Sunday in Lent  
(Oculi)*

March 7<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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 selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

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

### **The Ten Commandments**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**The Catechism** – How can water do such great things?

*How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: **“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)**

**Large Catechism:** Baptism is a very different thing from all other water, not by virtue of the natural substance but because here something nobler is added, for God himself stakes his honor, his power, and his might on it. Therefore it is not simply a natural water, but a divine, heavenly, holy, and blessed water—praise it in any other terms you can—all by virtue of the Word, which is a heavenly, holy Word that no one can sufficiently extol, for it contains and conveys all that is God's. This, too, is where it derives its nature so that it is called a sacrament, as St. Augustine taught, *“Accedat verbum ad elementum et fit sacramentum,”* which means that “when the Word is added to the element or the natural substance, it becomes a sacrament,” that is, a holy, divine thing and sign. – *Large Catechism*

**Memory Verse** – You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	A House Divided Luke 11:14-28		Psalm 47
Monday	Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-19	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalm 48
Tuesday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany Mark 14:1-11	Isaiah 49:13-18	Psalm 49
Wednesday	Herod Murders Children Matthew 2:7-18	1 John 2:7-11	Psalm 50
Thursday	Jesus Celebrates the Passover Mark 14:12-31	Zechariah 13:7-9	Psalm 51
Friday	Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane Mark 14:32-52	Psalm 88	Psalm 52
Saturday	Many Shall Come from Afar Isaiah 49:8-13	Acts 2:41-47	Psalm 53

O, Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

**Our Church:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Our Synod:** Matthew (Synod President), Timothy (District President), Aaron (Circuit Visitor). **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Undergoing Medical Treatment:** Sharon Hanke. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Todd Twenhafel (son-in-law of Roger & Joan Knolhoff, ongoing cancer treatments). **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 7<sup>th</sup> Mia Zimmermann, 8<sup>th</sup> Bethany Ruckman, 10<sup>th</sup> Earlene Lange, 11<sup>th</sup> Angie Nolte, Madisyn Nolte, Andy Pigg. **Anniversaries:** 10<sup>th</sup> David & Sheri Nolte. **For Area Schools:** That faculty and students may delight in teaching and learning, and that they may be kept safe from the pandemic. **For Government Officials:** Joe Biden (President), JB Pritzker (Governor), and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. **For the World:** That God would deliver us from pestilence, sedition, rebellion, and strife.

Look upon them with eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)**

**Hymn of the Week:** Lord of Our Life (LSB 659)