

The Congregation at Prayer

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

March 21st through March 27th, 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 – What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Large Catechism: Concerning confession we have always taught that it should be voluntary and purged of the pope's tyranny. We have been set free from his coercion and from the intolerable burden and weight he imposed upon the Christian community. Up to now, as we all know from experience, there has been no law quite so oppressive as that which forced everyone to make confession on pain of the gravest mortal sin. Moreover, it so greatly burdened and tortured consciences with the enumeration of all kinds of sin that no one was able to confess purely enough. Worst of all, no one taught or understood what confession is and how useful and comforting it is. Instead, it was made sheer anguish and a hellish torture because people had to make confession even though nothing was more hateful to them. These three things have now been removed and made voluntary: that we may confess without coercion or fear; that we are released from the torture of enumerating all sins in detail; finally, that we have the advantage of knowing how to use confession beneficially for the comforting and strengthening of our conscience. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8–9)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Before Abraham was, “I AM” John 8:42-59		Psalm 61
Monday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany John 12:1-11	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	Psalm 62
Tuesday	Palm Sunday John 12:12-26	Psalm 118:1-20	Psalm 63
Wednesday	Sanhedrin Murders Stephen Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60	John 15:17-25	Psalm 64
Thursday	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet–John 13:1-20 The Annunciation of Our Lord–Luke 1:26-38	Exodus 40:1-33	Psalm 65
Friday	A New Commandment Is Given John 13:21-38	Psalm 41	Psalm 66
Saturday	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem John 12:12-19	Philippians 2:5-11	Psalm 67

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 Who Mourn:** The Twenhafel family at the death of Todd Twenhafel. **Those Undergoing Medical Treatment:** Sharon Hanke. **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** 23rd Linda Reckling, 26th Caroline Tate, 27th Elaine Ballance, Kathryn Mines. **Anniversaries:** 21st Sam & Angie Siddell. **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: Christ, the Life of All the Living (LSB 420)