

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of the Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)  
(March 20<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***The Lord's Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Lord's Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition**

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34). Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lord. He has a kingdom, given to Him by His Father. And He has a lot to say about that Kingdom. In fact, He teaches His disciples – He teaches us! – to pray for His kingdom to come! And yet, when we look at a map of the world, you will not see a plot of land, marked by borders, which we inhabit as an earthly kingdom. So what is the Kingdom of Heaven? How does it come to us? And what exactly is it for which we are praying when we pray the 2nd Petition of the Lord's Prayer? All of this is the subject of this week's catechetical material. God bless your time in His Word, and as His kingdom comes even among us!

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

#### **The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed**

**The Catechism:** The Lord's Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition

Thy kingdom come.

*What does this mean?*

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also. *How does God's kingdom come?* God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Strong Man Delivers Us from Satan's Kingdom Luke 11:14-28		Psalm 54
Monday	The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 55
Tuesday	The Seed Growing Mark 4:26-29	Psalm 116:12-19	Psalm 56
Wednesday	Born from Above into the Kingdom John 3:1-15	Daniel 6:1-23	Psalm 57
Thursday	My Kingdom Is Not of this World John 18:33-37 & Psalm 103:19	Psalm 91	Psalm 58
Friday	Transferred into His Kingdom Colossians 1:13-14 & 1 Timothy 4:18	Proverbs 27:1-11	Psalm 59

Saturday	Isaiah 49:8-13	Galatians 4:21-31	Psalm 60
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### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon – Fri:** For each day's reading, discuss the following questions: 1) What does the reading say about the Kingdom of God? 2) How does the reading reinforce the meaning of the 2nd Petition? 3) What demand does this reading place upon us? 4) What promise (and hope) does this reading give to us? 5) Where does the passage teach us to find the Kingdom of God among us? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:13-14)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**Our Church:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia, Trinity Lutheran Church-Hoffman. **For Those Who are Expecting:** Corinne Bradley, Stefanie Jennings. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Linda Nehrt (Eddie & Verdell Hermsmeyer's niece), Barb Mueller, Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Elizabeth Boldt (niece of Susan Kleiboeker), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Elbert Brink, Eddie Hermsmeyer. **Those in Need of Healing:** Clare Jones (granddaughter of Mike & Opal Jones). **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Kathy Bookstaver (friend of Judy Kleiboeker), Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Joan Rueter, (3/20), Linda Reckling (3/23), Caroline Tate (3/26). **Anniversaries:** Sam & Angie Siddell (3/21). **The people of Ukraine,** and wisdom and guidance for the governments of the world in dealing with the crisis of Russia's invasion.

### The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

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