

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)  
(March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***The Lord's Prayer – 3<sup>rd</sup> Petition***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Lord's Prayer – 3<sup>rd</sup> Petition**

On the 3rd Petition, Martin Luther writes the following: "We have this comfort and confidence: the devil's will and purpose and all our enemies shall and must fail and come to nothing, no matter how proud, secure, and powerful they know themselves to be. For if their will were not broken and hindered, God's kingdom could not remain on earth nor His name be hallowed" (LC III, 70). The Devil, the world, and our sinful flesh, these three seek to destroy us and God's Kingdom. And so we pray in this petition that the LORD, who desires all to be saved, would break and hinder every evil plan, so that His will would be done among us. This is the theme of this week's study. God bless your time in His Word!

**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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*What does this mean?* The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. *How is God's will done?* God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Feeding of the 5,000 John 6:1-15		Psalm 61
Monday	Our Enemy the Devil Genesis 3:1-7 & 1 Peter 5:8	Romans 1	Psalm 62
Tuesday	Our Enemies: the World & the Flesh 1 John 2:15-17	Romans 2	Psalm 63
Wednesday	Evil Meant for Good Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 3	Psalm 64
Thursday	God's Enemies are Helpless Psalm 2	Romans 4	Psalm 65
Friday	God Protects Us from Evil Romans 16:20 & 2 Timothy 1:12	Romans 5	Psalm 66
Saturday	Genesis 22:1-14	Hebrews 9:11-15	Psalm 67

## Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon – Fri:** Use the following questions to initiate discussion about each day's reading: 1) What is the evil revealed in the passage? 2) What does the evil seek to do? 3) How is the evil a danger to us? 4) In what way is the evil limited, or even deterred? 5) Who, or what, is the source of our protection from evil? 6) What can we learn from this passage? 7) What comfort does this passage provide? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

## Memory Verse

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:40)

## 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:** Kathryn Mines, Elaine Ballance (3/27), Peggy Zimmermann (3/28), Diane Buening (4/1), Jacob Nolte, Brandi Gehrs, Mary Nolte (4/2). **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:** Jesus, Priceless Treasure (LSB 743)