

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following  
Sexagesima (February 4<sup>th</sup> –February 10<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Petitions of the Lord's Prayer***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Petitions of the Lord's Prayer**

This week, our catechetical focus is on the Fourth and Fifth Petitions of the Lord's Prayer. In the 4th Petition, that is, "give us this day our daily bread," we pray for everything that has to do for the support and needs of the body. In the Large Catechism, Martin Luther writes of this petition: "You see, in this way, God wishes to show us how He cares for us in all our need and faithfully provides also for our earthly support. He abundantly grants and preserves these things, even for the wicked and rogues (Matt. 5:45). Yet, He wishes that we pray for these goods in order that we may recognize that we receive them from His hand and may feel His fatherly goodness toward us in them (Psalm 104:28). For when He withdraws His hand, nothing can prosper or be maintained in the end. Indeed, we daily see this and experience it" (LCIII 82-83).

In the Fifth Petition, that is, "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," Luther writes: "It is, therefore, the intent of this petition that God would not regard our sins and hold up to us what we daily deserve. But we pray that He would deal graciously with us and forgive, as He has promised, and so grant us a joyful and confident conscience to stand before Him in prayer [Hebrews 10:22]." As God's own dear children, we are those who are freely forgiven for the sake of Christ. And being the recipient of such free grace, we have the privilege of freely extending it to those who sin against us. God bless your time in His Word this week as you consider the Fourth and Fifth Petitions of the Lord's Prayer!

**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:** *4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Petitions of the Lord's Prayer*

**Give us this day our daily bread.** *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.** *What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Sower Luke 8:4-15		Psalm 104
Monday	Every Living Thing Psalm 145:15-16 & Matthew 5:45	1 Kings 18	Psalm 105
Tuesday	Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers Luke 17:11-19	1 Kings 19	Psalm 106
Wednesday	How Many Times Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-22	1 Kings 20	Psalm 107
Thursday	The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:23-25	1 Kings 21	Psalm 108
Friday	Forgive Others/Confession & Absolution Psalm 32:5 & 1 John 1:8-9	1 Kings 22	Psalm 109
Saturday	The Ransomed Shall Return Isaiah 35:3-7	Final Warnings 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Psalm 110

### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon-Fri:** Does this reading deal with the 4th or 5th Petition? If it deals with the 4th Petition, in what way has the Lord provided daily bread and how does this encourage faith/trust? If it deals with the 5th Petition, in what (or in whom) is sin revealed, what does the sinner receive, and what is the source of the forgiveness? Also, what in the passage(s) reveals our own sin, and what reveals God's promises? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Circuit Vacancies:** Faith Lutheran (Flora), Trinity Lutheran (Iuka), Faith Lutheran (Mt. Vernon), Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Vanessa Hanke. **For Those in Need of Healing:** Matt Nolte, Curtis French, Norma Rueter, Mark Kleiboeker, Ross Withrow (Grandson of Sam & Angie Siddell), and Beth Jones (Pastor Jones' Wife). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments/Testing:** Eli Kuper, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann.

**Baptismal Birthday:** Roger Zimmermann, Jordan Kleiboeker (2/5), Tayler Albers (2/6), Gage Gehrs, Sherri Williams (2/9);

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

**Hymn of the Week:** Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (LSB 585)