



THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer
Judica (Lent 5) | March 22-27, 2026

*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 verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE OUR FATHER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us + from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the + evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the + evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

5 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—Psalm 33:6

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

In six days, God spoke all things into being by the power of His Word. This act flowed from the heart of the Holy Trinity, whose nature is self-giving love. But as we enter Passiontide, we see the Creator move toward the silence of the cross. The Father sends the Word, and the Spirit who once hovered over the waters now leads that Word toward Gethsemane. The “Life and Light of the world” prepares to enter the darkness of death to reclaim the world He spoke into existence. By this Word made flesh, God now calls forth life from dead sinners, proving that the hands that fashioned the stars are the same hands marked by the nails.

The Crown of Creation and the Crown of Thorns

Man was created in God’s image—the crown jewel of creation—meant to be the object of the Trinity’s love. We were fashioned to rule creation through a self-giving dominion, acting as God’s “mask” in the world. However, the fall shattered our relationships and our stewardship. As we approach the Great Three Days, we see the restoration begin. The New Adam, the Image of the Invisible God, enters His own creation to bear the “very bad” of our sin. He takes up the dominion of the cross, a self-giving rule that heals the brokenness of the fall. Through His death, the “very good” of creation is reclaimed, and the love of the Trinity is poured out once more upon a weary world.

CATECHISM: The Creed

The First Article

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

What does this mean?

1. I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul,
eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.
2. He also gives me clothing and shoes,
food and drink, house and home, wife and children,
land, animals, and all I have.
3. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need
to support this body and life.
4. He defends me against all danger
and guards and protects me from all evil.
5. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
6. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

Pre +

First Grade +

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUDICA

Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	Laetare: Gen 22:1–19 / Heb 9:11–15 / John 8:46–59a	
Monday	St. Benedict of Nursia (<i>postponed</i>): Sirach 24:31–32, 45, 33—25:1a / Matthew 19:27–29	Mark 14:32-72 / Jer 2:1-19
Tuesday	Bel and the Dragon 1:29ff. / John 7:1–13	Mark 15:1-19 / Hos 13:9-14
Wednesday	Annunciation of Our Lord: Isaiah 7:10–15 / Hebrews 10:4–10 / Luke 1:26–38a	Mark 15:20-47 / Zeph 3:1-8
Thursday	Prayer of Azariah 1:12–22 / John 7:40–53	John 12:1-19 / Micah 3:9-12
Friday	Jeremiah 17:13b–18 / John 11:47–54	John 12:20-50 / Is 66:1-9
Saturday	Jeremiah 18:18–23 / John 17:1–26 <i>Looking forward to Sunday: Philipians 2:5–11 / Matthew 26:1—27:66</i>	John 13:16-38 / Zech 9:1-17

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In our prayers this week:

LCMS District: South Dakota District

Partner Church: Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa

LCMS Missionaries: The Tiews Family (Germany); The Rickman Family (Panama)

LCMS Education: Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne

Sick & Recovering: Jocelyn Davey, Randy Hunt (Z), Marge Utley (F)

6**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK— Psalm 86**

Throughout this year of Congregation at Prayer, we will be praying the Psalms in canonical order (i.e., the order in which they're found in the canon of Scripture). Each Sunday's bulletin will include a helpful handout for the Psalm of the week. Please locate the Psalm in either your hymnal or bible and join in praying these ancient hymn-prayers of the Church. If the Psalm is a particularly long one, you might consider splitting it up and praying it over multiple days.

7**READ THE CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE READINGS (INSIDE COVER)**

Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.

8**PRAY THE COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK**

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon Thy people: that by Thy great goodness they may be governed in body, and by Thy protection preserved in mind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

9**PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS (INSIDE COVER)****10****SAY OR SING THE HYMN OF THE WEEK (LSB 440; Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81)****“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (sts. 1, 4-5)**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Jesus, I will ponder now
 On Your holy passion;
 With Your Spirit me endow
 For such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith
 May the image cherish
 Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
 That I may not perish.</p> <p>4. Grant that I Your passion view
 With repentant grieving.
 Let me not bring shame to You
 By unholy living.
 How could I refuse to shun
 Ev'ry sinful pleasure
 Since for me God's only Son
 Suffered without measure?</p> | <p>5. If my sins give me alarm
 And my conscience grieve me,
 Let Your cross my fear disarm;
 Peace of conscience give me.
 Help me see forgiveness won
 By Your holy passion.
 If for me He slays His Son,
 God must have compassion!</p> |
|---|--|