

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The week of Lent 3 (Oculi)*

*March 19-25, 2017*

**Catechetical Notes for the week:** *Because of Christ's words, the consecrated bread is Christ's body and the consecrated wine is Christ's blood. This is not a metaphor, symbol, or representative picture, but a reality. All who eat the Sacrament receive Christ's body and blood into their bodies regardless of faith. The presence of Christ is not tied to faith, but to the Words of Institution. But not all who eat receive the blessings. The unworthy eat to their judgment. Christ's body does not help them but hurts them. The worthy eat to their salvation. And faith alone makes one worthy. Faith never looks to itself, but always to Christ. Faith confesses its utter helplessness. Faith holds to the words of Christ spoken in this Sacrament. Faith believes God Himself is truly present and distributed. Faith trusts forgiveness, life, and salvation are given. So faith yearns to eat Christ in this Sacrament again and again. It shows us that we have taken this Supper for granted. We have approached casually as if it were our right, gone through the motions, and doubted the power of His Word. We have focused on the bread or wine, on germs or other communicants rather than the words of Jesus. We have eaten in haste or skipped it all together instead of in faith. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who continues to proclaim the Words of Consecration loudly and clearly to awaken faith, and because of those Words, gives His Body and Blood to us for the forgiveness of our sins.*

## ***Theme: Faith trusts in the Stronger One***

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

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**BIBLE VERSE:** 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

<p><i>What is the Sacrament of the Altar?</i> It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.</p>	1st Grade+
<p><i>Where is this written?</i> Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."</p>	K+

<i>Who receives this sacrament worthily?</i> Fasting and bodily preparations are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.	2nd Grade+
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<b>Daily Reading:</b>		<i>The Story Bible page</i>
Monday	Mark 10:13-16	380
Tuesday	John 21:1-14	415
Wednesday	Luke 24:14-35	409
Thursday	Genesis 15:1-6	51
Friday	Acts 3:1-10	425
Saturday	Isaiah 6:1-6	205

**Prayer:**

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

**Example:**

*Repeat the teaching on Holy Communion*

*A teaching: Dear Father, in Holy Communion You teach me that faith alone prepares me for reception of Your Son’s Body and Blood.*

*A thanksgiving: I thank You for giving me faith to believe in real presence of Your beloved Son in, with, and under the consecrated Bread and Wine and for giving me eternal blessings through this Sacrament.*

*A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I have viewed myself worthy of this Meal because of who I am and not what You have made me to be.*

*A prayer: I ask You to forgive my arrogance and grant me a humble heart that holds to Your Word alone.*

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

**Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God’s Word.*

**Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

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

**Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

**Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood.*

**Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

**Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

#### Prayer for Lent 3

We beseech You, almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants: and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever.

#### Luther's Morning/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.

#### The Lord's Prayer

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.