

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Laetare (The Fourth Sunday in Lent)
 March 30th through April 5th, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week—“**Crucified under Pontius Pilate**”—*The governing authorities have been instituted by God. God works His will through them, even though they may be evil. This requires faith in the Lord who promises to work His will, even though we may not understand why or how He will do it. Jesus submitted Himself to the governing authorities in His Passion. Although these authorities were evil, God accomplished His will through the administration of their office. Our salvation was won when the Son submitted Himself to the judgment of the Roman governor. We should be reminded and strengthened by this every time we confess that Jesus was “crucified under Pontius Pilate.”*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: The Heart Is Restless Until It Rests in Christ.

Invocation

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



Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 118:8

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalm 132:8-18 (antiphon: v.13)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: You, O Christ, are worthy to receive honor and praise, because You gather for Yourself a Church out of every kindred and tongue and nation. Because You have called us into Your kingdom, make us Your loyal subjects that, dressed in Your livery and justified in the sight of the Father through Your redemption, we may also walk as Your subjects, glorifying Your name upon earth. Amen. (Reading the Psalms with Luther. CPH: St. Louis, 2007. p. 319)

The Catechism: The Table of Duties—Of Civil Government

What does God’s Word say of Civil Government? Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, For there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God	First Grade+ Romans 13:1
Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.	Second Grade + Romans 13:2
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, But for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade + Romans 13:3
For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, An agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	Fourth Grade + Romans 13:4

Prayer for the Civil Government: *Heavenly Father give us civil authorities who will serve with integrity and faithfulness, for the maintenance of justice, the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of all those who do well. Grant all Christians faith in Your gracious providence, so that we might honor the civil authorities and contribute to the common welfare of our nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Readings for the week of Laetare (the Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	The Promise of the Holy Spirit—John 7:(25-36) 37-52	Isaiah 12:1-6
Tuesday	The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:53—8:12	Psalm 36
Wednesday	Midweek: Forsaken for Us: Resurrected —Psalm 22:22-26	Matthew 27:51-54
Thursday	A Man Born Blind Receives His Sight—John 9:1-12	Isaiah 60:19-22
Friday	The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man—John 9:13-34	1 John 2:15-23
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Genesis 22:1-14	Hebrews 9:11-15

Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for The Fourth Sunday in Lent:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.
- Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.
- Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Preschool, our church schools, and seminaries.
- Thursday:** Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; 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; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted
- Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

Lord's Prayer and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name (st. 1 - 3)

LSB #734

Looking forward to the Week of Judica (The Fifth Sunday in Lent)

April 6th, 2025

Hymns: 912, 430, 420, 809, 543, 435, 839, 423, 427

Genesis 22:1-14: This wonderful story of the Lord's call to Abraham to sacrifice his son, his only son, is a prophetic picture of how "the Lord will provide for Himself the Lamb for the burn offering" in the death of His Son. Isaac was the son of the promise, but he was not THE Son. The ram caught in the thicket signifies how Christ, our Lord, is offered up in our place as the offering for our sins.

Hebrews 9:11-15: "Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands...Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

John 8:46-59: The Jews contended with the Lord Jesus. They rejected Him because of His mercy to sinners. Though they claimed to be the Children of Abraham because of their bloodline, they rejected the faith of Abraham for they did not believe the promise. "In you Abraham, and in your Seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed." This was a promise of grace and salvation extended to all people. Abraham looked forward to the day of the Christ's coming, for in it God's grace would extend to the world in the redemption that was in Christ Jesus. In this Gospel Jesus confesses Himself to be the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham, and the great I AM Himself.