

*For the week of the First Sunday in Lent
February 26th, through March 4th, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “You can Lead a Horse to Water” A pastor is called by God to faithfully proclaim God’s Word. “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it, “ (Titus 1:9). A faithful pastor works hard to teach you God’s Word through preaching, classes, pastoral care, and even in informal interactions. However, no matter how hard a pastor works, all his effort won’t do much good if you aren’t willing to listen. Yet how hard is it for us to listen to and submit to what others say? How much harder is it for our sinful flesh to listen to and submit to what Christ says?

That is why God in Scripture commands us to hold those who teach the Word of God in high regard. A faithful pastor doesn’t wield authority to hold it over you. He gains no personal benefit from you listening to Him, other than what is gained by all the saints through the joy of living together in the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace. A faithful pastor’s desire is to help you know Christ even more, but often that requires pointing out what is hindering that knowledge. And so Luther highlights that those who hear the Word proclaimed by a faithful pastor should submit to the word that he proclaims.

To reiterate, this is not a submission of someone inferior to someone superior. All pastors are brothers among the saints. All pastors are also sinful humans and need correction themselves. So if you have a question or concern about something a pastor says, don’t hesitate to ask questions! This is not a lack of submission, but rather is a loving act of care and service for your pastor. Dwelling in unity with the saints doesn’t mean that there is no conflict, but it means pursuing truth together and trusting that Christ is stronger than any conflict we might encounter. So let us work together to hear and submit to the Word of God!

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 as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: LUKE 10:2

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

PSALM 32:1-7 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

O God, our heavenly Father, with whom is grace and much forgiveness, be merciful to us who were born in sin and cannot but sin and fall short every day. Forgive us our many transgressions and account them against us no more, but make us Your heirs through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who was delivered into death for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	62, 63	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80
Evening	64, 65	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	
Monday	The Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	Titus 3:1-15
Tuesday	The First Battle—Exodus 17:8-16	James 1:1-27
Wednesday		
Thursday	The Lord Gives the Ten Commandments—Exodus 20:1-24 (25-26)	James 2:1-26
Friday	The Lord Manes His Covenant with Israel—Exodus 23:20-24-24:18	James 3:1-18
Saturday	Genesis 12:1-9	Romanes 4:1-8

CATECHISM — Table of Duties

What the Hearers Owe their Pastors

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.	First Grade+
Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other	Second Grade +
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.	Third Grade +

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Prayer on the Catechism

Almighty and gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have commanded us to pray that You would send forth laborers into Your harvest. Of Your infinite mercy give us true teachers and ministers of Your Word who truly fulfill Your command and preach nothing contrary to Your holy Word. Grant that we, being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted, and strengthened by Your holy Word, may do those things which are well pleasing to You and profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Week

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *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:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *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:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, 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:** *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:** *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

Our Congregation: Sarah Maichel, Katie, Daniel; Diane Mailen; Russ & Dana McCullough; Carter McCullough; Rick & Linda Meier; Shirley Meloche; Eric & Natalie Melton; Ryan & Lily Meyer; Ray Meyer; Bill & Connie Miller; Curtis Miller

Baptismal Birthdays: Kathleen Butel; Jessica Lee

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Sick:

Friends of our Congregation:

Our Circuit:

St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington

Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Jim Bradshaw, Education and Youth

Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Our Community: *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly

Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

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.

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—or—

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.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

440

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| <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 suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.</p> <p>2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.</p> <p>3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.</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> <p>6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.</p> |
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Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to “Second Sunday in Lent”

March 5, 2023

Service Hymns: 722, 918, 708, 593, 725, 686, 763, 740

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9 | Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 | John 3:1-17

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram “a great nation,” to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to “all the families of the earth” (Gen. 12:2–3). “Abram went, as the LORD had told him” (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan “he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD” (Gen. 12:8). He “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He “justifies the ungodly” (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which “gives life to the dead” (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, “that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14–15).

