

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Third Sunday in Lent - Oculi

March 3 – March 9, AD 2024

During this season of Lent, as we prepare our hearts and minds to meditate on our Lord's death and resurrection for our salvation, it is good that we engage in the Christian discipline of fasting not because it makes us worthy of the Lord's Supper but because our flesh needs to be disciplined and brought into submission to the Word and will of God. As Luther says, "Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training." We need to practice telling our flesh "No", denying its desires, and being mindful that man lives only by the Word of God. When we simply indulge every whim of our flesh, then we will not be able to resist temptation when it comes. There is a long tradition in the church of fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays and then again Sunday morning before receiving the Lord's Supper. These are helpful suggestions that you are free to follow. Or you may come up with your own fasting schedule. But with your fasting be sure that you also devote more of your time and energy toward hearing the Word of God. It is His Word that makes you worthy, that cleanses you, and that invites you to His Supper that He might feed and strengthen your faith, that you may be kept safe in Him to everlasting life.

The Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. 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.

Sacrament of the Altar:

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

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.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

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."

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation 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.

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES' CREED

1 Corinthians 11:26 – *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Psalm 4

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (LSB 451)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSwV_vFZtk4

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - OCULI

① SUNDAY	LUKE 11:14-28	
② MONDAY	NUMBERS 11:4-6,10,13,18-23,31-34	1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-34
③ TUESDAY	JOHN 6:1-21	1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-13
④ WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW 27:27-31	
⑤ THURSDAY	JOHN 6:22-44	HEBREWS 9:11-22
⑥ FRIDAY	JOHN 6:47-69	2 JOHN 1:7-11
⑦ SATURDAY	ISAIAH 19:8-13	ACTS 2:41-47

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY: *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

MONDAY: *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

TUESDAY: *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

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

THURSDAY: *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

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

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- All those serving as missionaries around the world, especially Pastor Wildauer and Pastor Steele and their families.
- Birthdays: John Ulmer (4)
- Wedding Anniversaries: Ken and Gloria Lawrence (9)
- Franklin Fischer who has entered hospice
- Xariyah Slade who has been newly washed in the saving waters of Holy Baptism
- Alissa Ulmer, Dony Reaves, Doug Drawe, Ethan Sims, Jeff Ellis



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Catechism: Table of Duties – To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers: 1 Timothy 3:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:6; Titus 1:9

Fourth Sunday in Lent - Laetare – March 10, 2024

Hymns: 906, 743, 642, 423, 725, 923, 918

Readings: Exodus 16:2-21; Galatians 4:21-31; John 6:1-15

