

The Congregation at Prayer

New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian, Indiana

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Beginning March 22, 2020

*Theme: By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light.**

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Luke 10:2 (ESV)

“And [Jesus] 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 142

*The Catechism: The Ten Commandments and the Table of Duties---What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors***

<i>What are the first three Commandments?</i> You shall have no other gods. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	Preschool +
<i>Table of Duties---What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors</i> <i>What is 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13?</i> 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 +
<i>What is Hebrews 13:17?</i> 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 +

Readings for the Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Day	Reading
Sunday	Lent 4: John 9:1-41
Monday	Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany—John 12:1-11
Tuesday	Palm Sunday—John 12:12-26
Wednesday	Midweek Penitential Psalm: Psalm 102 The Annunciation of Our Lord: Luke 1:26-38
Thursday	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet—John 13:1-20
Friday	A New Commandment Is Given—John 13:21-38
Saturday	Prepare for Sunday - Lent 5: John 11:1-45

Prayers:

Collect for the Week of 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.**

Prayer on the Catechism

Table of Duties: Heavenly Father, You call sinful men into the Office of the Holy Ministry to faithfully proclaim Your Word and administer the Sacraments. Grant that Your people may “hold them in the highest regard because of their work” and “live at peace with one another.” May these ministers hold firmly to the pure Gospel so that they may encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week

For all affected by COVID-19, healthcare workers, government.

For an increase in faith and love among believers during this pandemic.

That the unrepentant would confess their sin, believe in Christ for forgiveness, and be united to Christ through baptism in His holy body, the Church.

(Consider praying the Litany on page 288 of Lutheran Service Book)

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

The Hymn of the Week: “God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1–14
Romans 8:1–11
John 11:1–45 (46–53)

Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life

The illness and death of Lazarus happened “*that the Son of God may be glorified through it*” (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die “*for the nation*” and gather “*into one the children of God who are scattered abroad*” (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to “*unbind him, and let him go*” (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not “*submit to God’s law,*” nor could we “*please God*” (Rom. 8:7–8), but “*he condemned sin*” in His own flesh so “*that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*” (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, “*the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells*” in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).*

“The Congregation at Prayer” has been adapted from the model provided by Peter Bender, *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation* 2nd Edition (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2011), 21-22 and the September 1, 2019 version at peacesussex.org/downloads (accessed 9/17/2019) as well as Peter Bender’s Master Schedule for 2019-2020 academic year found at www.lutherancatechesis.org/resource/ (last accessed 3/21/2020).

*Theme and lectionary summary provided by www.lcms.org/worship/lectionary-summaries.

**Catechism format adapted from the Lutheran Catechesis Learn-By-Heart Edition of Luther’s Small Catechism (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 1998). Translation of Luther’s Small Catechism: *Luther’s Small Catechism* © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. www.cph.org.