

**Daily Devotions for Home and Family**  
*For the Week of The Second Sunday in Lent*  
March 17 through March 23

**[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]**

<sup>373</sup> When Paul says, “He will render to every man according to his works,” we must understand not merely outward works but the entire righteousness or unrighteousness. That is to say, “Glory for him who does good,” namely, for the righteous man. “You gave me food”<sup>35</sup> is cited as fruit and evidence of the righteousness of the heart and of faith, and for this reason eternal life is granted to righteousness.

<sup>374</sup> In this way the Scriptures lump together the righteousness of the heart and its fruit. They often mention the fruit to make it clearer to the inexperienced and to show that a new life and new birth are required, not hypocrisy. Such a new birth comes by faith amid penitence.

<sup>375</sup> No sane man can judge otherwise. We are not trying to be overly subtle here in distinguishing the righteousness of the heart from its fruits, if only our opponents would grant that the fruits please God because of faith and the mediator Christ but in themselves are not worthy of grace and eternal life.

<sup>376</sup> This is what we condemn in our opponents’ position, that by interpreting such passages of the Scriptures in either a philosophical or a Jewish manner they eliminate from them the righteousness of faith and Christ, the mediator. From these passages they reason that works merit grace by the merit of congruity or, if love is added, by the merit of condignity; that is, that they justify, and because they are righteousness that they are worthy of eternal life. This error obviously destroys the righteousness of faith, which believes that we have access to God not because of our works but because of Christ, and that through his priestly mediation we are led to the Father and have a reconciled Father, as we have said often enough.

<sup>377</sup> This teaching about the righteousness of faith dare not be neglected in the church of Christ; without it the work of Christ cannot be understood, and what is left of the doctrine of justification is nothing more than the teaching of the law. We are therefore obliged to hold fast to the Gospel and the teaching of the promise given for Christ’s sake.

<sup>378</sup> It is then no minor matter about which we are arguing here with our opponents. We are not trying to be overly subtle when we condemn those who teach that we merit eternal life by works, omitting the faith that takes hold of the mediator Christ.

<sup>379</sup> About this faith, which believes that the Father is propitious to us for Christ’s sake, there is not a syllable in the scholastics. Everywhere they maintain that we are acceptable and righteous because of our works, either done by the reason or at least wrought by the impulse of the love they talk about. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. IV:373-379

***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

**Invocation**

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

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.  
Amen.

## Psalm – 4

### The Catechism – *The Lord's Prayer – Fourth Petition*

Give us this day our daily bread.

*What does this mean?*

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?*

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

## Daily Readings:

Sunday, March 17 – Genesis 16:1-9, 15-17:22 (*Commemoration of Patrick, Missionary to Ireland*)

Monday, March 18 – Genesis 18:1-15

Tuesday, March 19 – Genesis 21:1-21 (*Feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus; suggested add'l reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*)

Wednesday, March 20 – Genesis 22:1-19

Thursday, March 21 – Genesis 24:1-31

Friday, March 22 – Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67

Saturday, March 23 – Genesis 27:1-29

**Meditation** (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

## Prayers

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that

may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church-  
Missouri Synod  
The Rev. Matthew Harrison  
The Atlantic District  
The Rev. Derek Lecakes  
Concordia Theological  
Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
The Rev. Lawrence Rast  
Concordia Seminary, St.  
Louis  
The Rev. Dale Meyer  
Concordia College – New  
York  
The Rev. John Nunes  
The Concordia University  
System  
Lutheran Parochial Schools  
Our Sister Churches  
All Pastors, Missionaries,  
and Church Workers

The United States of  
America  
President Donald Trump  
Governor Andrew Cuomo  
U.S. Military Personnel  
All Fire, Police, and EMS  
workers and volunteers  
Thelma Stegemann  
Irene Jones  
Florence Vollmer  
Jim Sclafani  
Lorraine Keller  
Janet Gottlieb  
Tom Keller  
Frances Flanagan  
Richard Duffy  
Marge Glass  
Rob Arrasate  
Nancy Galasso  
Edward Karan  
Cassie Forrest

Steven Roth  
Karen Salamone  
Kayla Spero  
Derek Hrankowsky  
Carol Paulsen  
Denise Schultz  
Bert Schneider  
Larry Harris  
Edward Harris  
Dave Sirckia  
Rosemary Merrill  
Laura Acker  
Alison Ruddick  
The Rev. Brian & Kristin  
Noack  
The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo  
Coffey  
Alexandria Rappe  
Ann Inoue

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

### Morning or 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.

### Hymn for the Week – *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

*LSB #708, st.2*

Yea, Lord 'twas Thy rich bounty gave  
My body, soul, and all I have  
In this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
May glorify Thy lavish grace  
And help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
Let Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
To bear my cross and follow Thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
In death Thy comfort still afford.

### Closing Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Looking ahead for The Second Sunday in Lent:

*Ezekiel 33:7-20*

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

*Luke 13:1-9*