

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of the First Sunday in Lent
February 22 through February 28

FAITH

Chapter 100. The Will of God is Never Defeated, Though Much is Done that is Contrary to His Will.

These are the great works of the Lord, sought out according to all His pleasure, and so wisely sought out, that when the intelligent creation, both angelic and human, sinned, doing not His will but their own, He used the very will of the creature which was working in opposition to the Creator's will as an instrument for carrying out His will, the supremely Good thus turning to good account even what is evil, to the condemnation of those whom in His justice He has predestined to punishment, and to the salvation of those whom in His mercy He has predestined to grace. For, as far as relates to their own consciousness, these creatures did what God wished not to be done: but in view of God's omnipotence, they could in no wise effect their purpose. For in the very fact that they acted in opposition to His will, His will concerning them was fulfilled. And hence it is that the works of the Lord are great, sought out according to all His pleasure, because in a way unspeakably strange and wonderful, even what is done in opposition to His will does not defeat His will. For it would not be done did He not permit it (and of course His permission is not unwilling, but willing); nor would a Good Being permit evil to be done only that in His omnipotence He can turn evil into good.

Chapter 101. The Will of God, Which is Always Good, is Sometimes Fulfilled Through the Evil Will of Man.

Sometimes, however, a man in the goodness of his will desires something that God does not desire, even though God's will is also good, nay, much more fully and more surely good (for His will never can be evil): for example, if a good son is anxious that his father should live, when it is God's good will that he should die. Again, it is possible for a man with evil will to desire what God wills in His goodness: for example, if a bad son wishes his father to die, when this is also the will of God. It is plain that the former wishes what God does not wish, and that the latter wishes what God does wish; and yet the filial love of the former is more in harmony with the good will of God, though its desire is different from God's, than the want of filial affection of the latter, though its desire is the same as God's. So necessary is it, in determining whether a man's desire is one to be approved or disapproved, to consider what it is proper for man, and what it is proper for God, to desire, and what is in each case the real motive of the will. For God accomplishes some of His purposes, which of course are all good, through the evil desires of wicked men: for example, it was through the wicked designs of the Jews, working out the good purpose of the Father, that Christ was slain and this event was so truly good, that when the Apostle Peter expressed his unwillingness that it should take place, he was designated Satan by Him who had come to be slain. How good seemed the intentions of the pious believers who were unwilling that Paul should go up to Jerusalem lest the evils which Agabus had foretold should there befall him! And yet it was God's purpose that he should suffer these evils for preaching the faith of Christ, and thereby become a witness for Christ. And this purpose of His, which was good, God did not fulfill through the good counsels of the Christians, but through the evil counsels of the Jews; so that those who opposed His purpose were more truly His servants than those who were the willing instruments of its accomplishment. ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapters 100-101

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 – 32:1-7

The Catechism – *Sacrament of the Altar*

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.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, February 22 – John 7:14-31

Monday, February 23 – John 7:32-53 (*Commemoration of Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr*)

Tuesday, February 24 – John 8:1-20 (*Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle; suggested add'l reading: Matthew 11:25-30*)

Wednesday, February 25 – John 8:21-38

Thursday, February 26 – John 8:39-59

Friday, February 27 – John 9:1-23

Saturday, February 28 – John 9:24-41

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

Prayers

Let us pray...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.

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. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Jim Baum; Jackie Blydenburgh; Roseann Carrano; Roy & Ingrid Chopping; Ed Doepp; Anne Grant; Don Mack; Dorothy Mistler; Rudy & Julie Morgenfruh; Dot Rigaud; Joanne Roland; Alice Ryan; Judy Smith; Rita Smith; Gertrude Sutorius; Ingrid Vessie; Jack Whitehouse

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

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 – *The Tree of Life*

LSB #564, st. 4

Now from that tree of Jesus shame
Flowers life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ † and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

† Look Ahead for Next Week:

Genesis 12:1–9

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

John 3:1–17