**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

**+++**

**Living from the Liturgy**

*A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays*

Invocabit

March 5 - 11

*In the Garden man exalts himself to be a god in place of God. (Gen 3:1–21) He succumbs to the temptation of the devil, and eating of the forbidden fruit he receives death. But in the sin-cursed wilderness God humbles Himself to become man in place of man. (Mt 4:1–11) He does not eat but fasts and bears the onslaughts of the devil for us that we may be restored to life. Jesus stands as David in our place to do battle against the Goliath Satan. (I Samuel 17:40–51) Though outwardly Jesus appears weak, yet He comes in the name of the Lord of hosts. He draws from the five smooth stones of the books of Moses and slings the Word of God. The stone sinks into the forehead, and the enemy falls. In Christ we are victorious over the devil. Let us therefore not receive the grace of God in vain (2 Cor 6:1–10), but seeing that we have a great High Priest, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain help in time of need (Heb 4:14–16).*

**An Order for Daily Meditation and Prayer**

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate for yourself or your family.

**Daily Readings for the Week:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday, March 5 | Review Readings for Invocabit |
| Monday, March 6 | Acts 3 | Joshua 19-20 |
| Tuesday, March 7 | Acts 4 | Joshua 21-22 |
| Wednesday, March 8 | Acts 5 | Joshua 23-24 |
| Thursday, March 9 | Acts 6 | Judges 1-4 |
| Friday, March 10 | Acts 7:1-53 | Judges 5-6 |
| Saturday, March 11 | Proverbs 10:15-32 | Psalm 70-71 |

**The Catechism: Confession**

(*Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.*)

*What is Confession?*

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

**Psalm of the Week: 32**

**Introduction:** The 32nd psalm is an exemplary psalm of instruction that teaches us what sin is, and how one might be freed from it and be righteous before God. Our reason does not know what sin is and tries to make satisfaction for it with works. But the psalmist says that even saints are sinners. They cannot become holy or blessed except by confessing themselves as sinners before God, knowing that they are regarded as righteous only from the grace of God, apart from any service or work.

**Luther’s Prayer:** 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 offences, and was raised again for our justification. Amen.

**Collect for Invocabit**

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.

**Daily Themes for Prayer – (From LSB page 294)**

**Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

**Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and wellbeing of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** Pray 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:** Pray 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:** Pray 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:** Pray 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 at LCC**

**Our Prayer Family:** David Brase

**A Sister Congregation:** Trinity Lutheran Church – Mount Ranier, MD

 Rev. Peter Schiebel

**Our Children, Educators and Schools:** Doris Banbara

 North Bethesda School

**Special Prayers:** Craig Olson, Stacy Owens, Bob Droege, HelenNine, Vonnie Stewart, Laura Parker, the family and friends of Charlie Hintze and the persecuted Church throughout the world.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Luther’s 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.

**Announcements March 5 - 12, 2017**

**LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Lenten Midweek Dinner and Evening Prayer**

**\*\*\*SIGN-UP Sheet for Dinners located on Narthex Bulletin Board**

 **Every Wednesday from March 8 to April 5,** join us for dinner at 6:15pm and the Service of Evening Prayer to follow at 7:30pm. Our Lenten Midweek theme from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday is the Lord’s Prayer.

**LESSONS FOR LAMBS** – Whether you have young children, youth, no children, or anything else, take some time to check out the Lessons for Lambs that are available next to the bulletins and sermon notes at the entrance to the sanctuary. If the ‘Living from the Liturgy’ insert happens to not be accessible for your family, please consider this resource as a helpful tool in building family devotions!

**Sunday Morning Christian Education:** Join us at 9am as we grow together in the faith of Christ.

**Children –Youth:** Gather on the Lower Level.

 **Theme:** Generations of Faith

 **Catechism Theme:** 10 Commandments

**Adults:** Gather in the Upper Room.

 **Theme:** “Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service”

 **Purpose:** To grow in and foster a common language for LCC regarding the Christian Faith as given in the Divine Liturgy and expressed in such areas as ‘Mission’, ‘Witness’, ‘Outreach’, ‘Daily Living’, and Christian Identity.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Class:** Join us at 10am at the Chapel at the Villages at Rockville (NLH) for a study on the Gifts of the Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Our class meets year-round, and all ages are welcome to attend.

**Upper Room Items:** We are working slowly at cleaning and organizing different rooms in the church, and at the moment, we are focusing on the Upper Room. There are several small bookshelves and a desk that are up for grabs if you might have use of them. Please talk to Pastor Harrison if interested.