

The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *Oculi* (Lent 3)

Sunday, March 24, 2019 *through* Saturday, March 30, 2019

“Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man”

Exodus 8:16-24; Ephesians 5:1-9; Luke 11:14-28

The prophets were charged with speaking evil when they spoke the Word of the Lord. So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14–28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, a title that means “Lord of the Flies.” Like Pharaoh of old, the people who accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan have hardened hearts (Exodus 8:16–24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. Jesus takes the devil’s armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Ephesians 5:1–9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

INVOCATION (*make the sign of the holy cross and say*)

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

THE 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 is seated 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting. Amen.

PSALM Psalm 4

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article XVI: Civil Government

See Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, pp. 39-40, 194-196

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, March 24: Genesis 27:30-28:22
Mark 9:1-13

Monday, March 25: Genesis 29:1-34:31
Mark 9:14-32

Tuesday, March 26: Genesis 35:1-29
Mark 9:33-50

Wednesday, March 27: Genesis 37:1-36
Mark 10:1-12

Thursday, March 28: Genesis 39:1-23
Mark 10:13-31

Friday, March 29: Genesis 40:1-23
Mark 10:32-52

Saturday, March 30: Genesis 41:1-27
Mark 11:1-19

HYMN

Lord of Our Life

LSB 659:1, 4

**Lord of our life and
God of our salvation,
Star of our night and
hope of ev'ry nation:
Hear and receive Your
Church's supplication,
Lord God Almighty.**

**Peace in our hearts where
sinful thoughts are raging,
Peace in Your Church, our
troubled souls assuaging,
Peace when the world its
endless war is waging,
Peace in Your Heaven.**

PRAYERS

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. Amen.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and

lead us not into temptation, but ✠ deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

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 PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *Laetare* (Lent 4)

Isaiah 49:8-13

Psalm 132

Galatians 4:21-31

John 6:1-15

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

LSB 743