



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



A CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 27, 2010

COMMENTARY FOR THE WEEK

Jesus Christ Is Our Champion against the Devil

Sundays during the season of Lent are not included in the 40 days of Lent, for Sundays are always a celebration of the full Gospel, which includes both Jesus' death, and his resurrection. This morning, we consider how Jesus takes our place against the Devil.

Jesus Christ, our Champion against the devil, endures and overcomes "every temptation" (Luke 4:13) on our behalf. He worships the Lord His God, and serves Him only by trusting the Word of His Father: "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). Jesus' victory is now ours through His gracious Word, which is not far away but near us—in our mouth and in our heart, in the proclamation of repentance and faith. For "with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved" (Rom. 10:10). Our confession of Christ includes the prayer of

faith, which is not disappointed; "for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). The Lord is not oblivious to "our affliction, our toil, and our oppression" (Deut. 26:7), but has mercy upon us. He has brought us out of bondage through the "signs and wonders" of Holy Baptism, "with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (Deut. 26:8), and now He leads us by His Spirit even in the wilderness.



A SAMPLE FAMILY DEVOTION:

• Invocation

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

• Verse of the Week

Try to memorize by the end of the week.

• Daily Bible Story

Read together and talk about the story. Which character are you most like? Where is the Gospel?

• Apostles' Creed

• Prayers

Pray together the collect, and have a family member pray the daily thematic prayer and the prayers of the Church for the Week

MEMORIZING THE CATECHISM: THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

<i>What is the Office of the Keys?*</i> The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has give to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.	1st +
<i>Where is this written?</i> This what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23	2nd +
<i>What do you believe according to these words?*</i> I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.	3rd +
<i>*This question many not have been composed by Luther himself but reflects his teaching and was included in editions of the catechism during his lifetime.</i>	

Reading the Psalms:

Perfect for personal morning devotions.

SUNDAY	128, 129 130
MONDAY	131, 132 133, 134
TUESDAY	135 136
WEDNESDAY	137, 138 139
THURSDAY	140, 141 142, 143
FRIDAY	144 146
SATURDAY	145 148

VERSE OF THE WEEK

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:34b

Hymn of the Week:

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”, #329

A musician in the family can play the tune while the family sings together. Otherwise, the text is good devotional material.

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 26:8-15

Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Luke 13:31-35

Lament over Jerusalem

BIBLE STORIES FOR THE FAMILY AND CONGREGATION:

TO BE READ DURING YOUR DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Monday	Daniel's Prayer (Daniel 9:1-6,17-27)
Tuesday	Daniel's Vision of a Man (Daniel 10:1—11:4 [12:1-13])
Wednesday	The Proclamation of Cyrus the King of Persia (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)
Thursday	The End of Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 1:1-11)
Friday	The Rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra 3:1-13)
Saturday	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

DAILY PRAYER READINGS:

PERFECT FOR PERSONAL EVENING DEVOTIONS

Sunday	OT: Genesis 4:1-26	NT: Mark 2:18-28
Monday	Genesis 6:1—7:5	Mark 3:1-19
Tuesday	Genesis 7:11—8:12	Mark 3:20-35
Wednesday	Genesis 8:13—9:17	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday	Genesis 11:27—12:20	Mark 4:21-41
Friday	Genesis 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
Saturday	Genesis 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43
Sunday	Genesis 16:1-9,15—17:22	Mark 6:1-13

PRAYERS

Collect for the Week:

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 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:

Sunday	for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of the faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.
Monday	for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
Tuesday	for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.
Wednesday	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	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	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	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 @ Mt. Calvary

Reta Braune at Northeast Baptist following surgery; **Ed Koehler** who will have surgery on Wednesday in Bryan, Texas; **Marlene Walker** at home following surgery; **the family of Karen Price** at the death of her sister, Lilia Zertuche, in Mexico; **the family of Don Lundy** at the death of his brother, Dalton Lundy, in Florida; **Zane and Abigail Golding** at St. Luke's Hospital; **Florence Winkler** at home; **Wayne West** at Heartland; **Marge Regelin** at Northeast Methodist; **Andy Bergquist** at Methodist, Floyd Curl.