

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Passion Week (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)*

*March 17, 2024, through March 24, 2024*

**Patristic Quote for the Week** —**GREGORY THE GREAT** (540-604AD): He provides us with an example of what we should do in such a situation when he adds, “I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks and judges.” We know that it is written that “the Father has given all judgment to the Son,” and yet we see that when the Son receives insulting words he does not seek his own glory. He leaves the offenses offered him for the Father’s judgment. And so he suggests to us how patient we should be when even he, the Judge, does not wish to avenge himself. FORTY GOSPEL HOMILIES 16.<sup>1</sup>

**Life Thoughts**-- God’s gifts do not always make immediate human sense (John 8:48, 53, 57). What remains certain regardless is that God is good and God gives. The Father who eternally gives Himself to the Son (John 8:42) and the Son who offers Himself to the Father in appreciative obedience (John 8:55) are the Holy Trinity who imparts this life-giving Spirit even where only death appears possible (Genesis 22:10). Trusting His Word and work releases from death’s threatening grip (John 8:51, Genesis 22:13). *Father, Son, and Spirit, guide us to trust Your Gospel that we may share in Your abundant life. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts**-- **Genesis 22:2** – “He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’” It’s hard for us to even fathom a faith as strong as Abraham’s — he follows the Lord’s Word even when it seems impossibly hard. But he does so because he knows that the Lord only means to bless. What happened here to Abraham should be an encouragement for us: trust the Lord and keep His Word.

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

## Invocation

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

## Apostles’ Creed

**Verse: John 8:47a**

**“Whoever is of God hears the words of God.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 43*

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., March 17	<b>Gospel Lesson, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent—John 8:46-59</b>	Genesis 22:1-14
Mon., March 18	Are you the Christ?—Mark 14:43-72	Jeremiah 2:1-19
Tues., March 19	Hail, King of the Jews—Mark 15:6-19	Hosea 13:9-14
Wed, March 20	Truly this Man was the Son of God—Mark 15:33-41	Zephaniah 3:1-8
Thurs, March 21	Joseph...laid Him in a rock-hewn tomb—Luke 23:50-56	Micah 3:9-12
Fri., March 22	I have come as light into the world—John 12:44-50	Isaiah 66:1-9
Sat., March 23	Now is the Son of Man glorified—John 13:16-48	Zechariah 9:1-17
Sun., March 24	Gospel Lesson, 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent—Matthew 27:11-54	Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>1</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2006. [John 1–10](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

**Pray the Collect for Judica (Fifth Sunday in Lent):**

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**Personal Prayers and Petitions**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn of the Week**

**My Song is Love Unknown**

**LSB 430**

- 1 My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683  
Text: Public domain

- Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
Themselves displease  
And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suff'ring goes  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.
  - 6 In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.
  - 7 Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

**Looking forward to Palm Sunday**

**March 24, 2024**

**Hymns: 442, 438, 441**

**John 12:12-19**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**Matthew 27:11-54**