

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of Quinquagesima

February 11, 2024, through February 18, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week —**MACRINA (THE SISTER OF GREGORY OF NYSSA) (327-379AD)**: Love is first among all the activities connected with virtue and all the commandments of the law. If, therefore, the soul ever attains this love, it will need none of the others, having reached the fullness of its being. It seems that love alone preserves in itself the character of the divine blessedness. And knowledge becomes love because what is known is by nature beautiful. [THE TEACHING OF MACRINA] ON THE SOUL AND THE RESURRECTION.¹

Life Thoughts-- “[T]he Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance” (1 Samuel 16:7). Age, shape, and ability do not establish or inhibit human worth. “[T]he Lord looks on the heart” and sees the life and spirit hidden within. Every human pulse beats with the Creator’s own love – patient (1 Corinthians 13:4), enduring (1 Corinthians 13:7), making perfect (1 Corinthians 13:10) what was wrecked (Luke 18:42).
Dear Jesus, give us Your love that looks past appearances. Amen.

Stewardship Thoughts-- **Matthew 6:21** – “**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” There’s the ultimate word on stewardship: your heart goes where you put the treasure which God has given you to manage in this life.

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: 1 Corinthians 13:13

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Read or Chant Psalm 89

Catechism: Apostles’ Creed—Third Article

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

¹ Bray, Gerald Lewis, ed. 1999. [1–2 Corinthians](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Feb. 4	Epistle Lesson, Quinquagesima—1 Corinthians 13:1-13	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Mon., Feb. 5	All night He continued in prayer to God—Luke 6:1-19	Exodus 24:1-25:9
Tues., Feb. 6	The Good Man out of the good treasure...--Luke 6:43-49	Exodus 31:18-32:35
Wed, Feb. 7	Be merciful as your Father is merciful—Luke 6:20-36	Exodus 33:1-23
Thurs, Feb 8	Blessed is he who takes no offense at me.—Luke 7:1-35	Exodus 34:1-10
Fri., Feb 9	Nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest—Luke 8:16-56	Exodus 34:27-35
Sat., Feb 10	Whoever would save his life—Luke 9:1-27	Exodus 40:1-38
Sun., Feb 11	Gospel Lesson, 1 st Sunday in Lent—Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 3:1-21

Pray the Collect for Sexagesima:

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord's Prayer

Hymn of the Week

Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
 With a liberating light;
 Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
 Turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
 Healing ev'ry dread disease,
 Calming storms, and feeding thousands
 With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
 With a strong, yet gentle, word;
 Praise the One who drove out demons
 With the piercing, two-edged sword.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

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Praise the One who brings cool water
 To the desert's burning sand;
 From this Well comes living water,
 Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
 Christ, who suffered in our place.
 Jesus died and rose victorious
 That we may know God by grace.
 Let us sing for joy and gladness,
 Seeing what our God has done;
 Let us praise the true Redeemer,
 Praise the One who makes us one.

Looking forward to Invocabit Sunday (1st Sunday in Lent)

February 18, 2024

Hymns: 521, 439, 657, 562, 619, 433

Genesis 3:1-21

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Matthew 4:1-11