The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Judica*

*March 17, 2024*

*Pray and confess aloud 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.*

**Catechesis Notes for the week** **– The Week of Judica - “Vindicate…” –** The Latin title for this week in Lent is “Judica” which means “judge” or better translated “vindicate me.” It is taken from the Introit for the Sunday: “Vindicate me, O God, and plead (or defend) my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!” (Psalm 43:1-1) There are times in life in which evil and deceit are perpetrated against us by wicked and deceitful people. Jesus endured all such injustices for us from those who hated His ministry of mercy. At such times, we are called to entrust ourselves to God. We identify with our Lord and draw strength and comfort from Him who endured all manner of injustice for us. In the end, and for Jesus’ sake, He will vindicate His people and plead their case against the ungodly. In the end, God will bring forth justice for the oppressed, and right all wrongs at the last.

“Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation;

Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

For You are the God of my strength.

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul?

And why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.”

(Psalm 43:1-2a; Psalm 43:3-5)

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

**Verse:** Luke 11:28 – But Jesus said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 43**

**New Testament Stories Gospel of John**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Judica Gospel – Luke 11:14-28 |
| Monday | Jesus is Anointed in Bethany – John 12:1-11 |
| Tuesday | Palm Sunday – John 12:12-26 |
| Wednesday | **Lenten Midweek – Christ Handed Over For Our Sake – Romans 4:16-5:2** |
| Thursday | Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet – John 13:1-20 |
| Friday | A New Commandment Is Given – John 13:21-38 |
| Saturday | Palm Sunday Gospel – Zechariah 9:9-12 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Catechism: Table of Duties: What Hearers Owe Their Pastors: Second Half**  *(Preschool and Kindergarten children review the primary texts of the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments)* | **Grades** |
| Honor your father and your mother  You shall not murder  You shall not commit adultery |  |
| *What does God’s Word say the hearers of God’s Word owe their pastors?*  We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. | 1st+  1 Thessalonians 5:12 |
| Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. | 2nd+  1 Thessalonians 5:13 |
| Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. | 3rd+  Hebrews 13:17 |