

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ Fifth Sunday in Lent ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of April 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Are you ever *worthy* to receive the Sacrament? When we think of worthiness, we typically think in terms of what I've done or accomplished. We think of how well we've done: "maybe if I do just a bit more *then* I'll be worthy to receive it." Or, "once I've learned this and that, *then* I'll be worthy." Or, "once I turn 13 *then* I'll be worthy." Thankfully this week's catechism instruction frees us from the burden of achieving our own worthiness. It's not what we *do* that makes us worthy (or how old we are or how much we know), but what we believe:

*"But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words:*

*'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'*"

Worthy reception of the Sacrament is receiving the Lord's body and blood as a penitent sinner with faith in His words. This faith, or trust, is given to us in Baptism and nurtured within us by hearing His Word of sins forgiven throughout our lives.

Catechesis prepares our youth for receiving the sacrament *worthily*—not because they can check off how much they've crammed into their heads, but because they believe these words of Christ, that the body and blood of Christ are given *for me!*

So let's do a self-examination: If you're not a sinner then you're not worthy. If you're unwilling to confess your sins then you're not worthy. If you don't believe what the Sacrament is—that is, the true body and blood of Christ our Lord—then you're not worthy. If you don't believe Jesus gave Himself for *you* and for *your* forgiveness, then you're not worthy. Those who are found *unworthy* aren't unworthy because they haven't worked as hard or don't mean as well—they just don't believe these words: "*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*" And, as Luther says, "*the words for you require all hearts to believe.*" With faith in these words, let us worthily receive from our Lord the gifts He desires to give!

**Worthy Reception**

Responsive Prayer 2, *Lutheran Service Book* p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**1 John 1:7**

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**Sacrament of the Altar**

**Who receives this sacrament worthily?**

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Daily Readings...

*Monday (4/7):* Exod 2:1-22; Mark 14:32-52

*Tuesday (4/8):* Exod 2:23-3:22; Mark 14:53-72

*Wednesday (4/9):* Exod 4:1-18; Mark 15:1-15

*Thursday (4/10):* Exod 4:19-31; Mark 15:16-32

*Friday (4/11):* Exod 5:1-6:1; Mark 15:33-47

*Saturday (4/12):* Exod 7:1-25; Mark 16:1-20

*Sunday (4/13):* Exod 8:1-32; Hebrews 1:1-14

Prayer of the Week...

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

*Psalm 116*

Hymn of the Week... "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

*Midweek* ~ Exodus 16:1-36    1 Corinthians 10:1-22    John 6:22-59

*Palm Sunday* ~ John 12:12-19    Isaiah 50:4-9a    Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:1-27:66 (*The Passion according to St. Matthew*)