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Front Picture: The Cranach Altar at the Market Church of Our Dear Lady (Marktkirche Unser Lieben Frauen, built between 1529-1554) in Halle, Saxon-Anhalt, Germany. The altar was created in 1529 by Lucas Cranach the Elder. A lower horizontal panel shows Mary and Child with 14 Holy helpers while above are two fixed panels and four movable ones which can be configured for special Holidays, the panel picture The Annunciation, Ursula and St Erasmus, St. Magdalen, John the Baptist, St Augustin and St Catherine. When fully opened the altar shows the Madonna on a moon sickle surrounded by angels, with Cardinal Albrecht kneeling before her.

(The above picture taken from alamy.com. Some picture comments taken from bargaintraveleurope.com.)

MDH

Our Family Daily Prayers Gesima/Lent/Holy Week 2018



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Our Family Daily Prayers 2018

Follow the order for Daily Devotions in Lutheran Worship, p.293.

Week leading to Septuagesima: January 22-28, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 18(LW, p. 316-318)

Hymn – #86 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Daily Readings –

22 Monday	Joel 2:1-17	Romans 11:1-24
23 Tuesday	Joel 2:18-32	Romans 11:25-12:13
24 Wednesday	Joel 3:1-21	Romans 12:14-13:14
10:30 AM	St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor Ezekiel 34:11-16, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 21:15-17	
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matthew 20:1-16	
25 Thursday	Zechariah 1:1-21	Romans 14:1-23
10:30 AM	The Conversion of St. Paul Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 9:1-22, Mt 19:27-30	
26 Friday	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Romans 15:1-13
10:30 AM	St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor Acts 20:17-35, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 24:42-47	
27 Saturday	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
28 Sunday	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
10:15 AM	Septuagesima Exodus 17:1-7, 1 Cor. 9:24-10:5, Mt. 20:1-16	

Family: “In the second place, after God had made man and woman he blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply” [Gen. 1:28]. From this passage we may be assured that man and woman should and must come together in order to multiply. Now this [ordinance] is just as inflexible as the first, and no more to be despised and made fun of than the other, since God gives it his blessing and does something over and above the act of creation. Hence, as it is not within my power not to be a man, so it is not my prerogative to be without a woman. Again, as it is not in your power not to be a woman, so it is not your prerogative to be without a man. For it is not a matter of free choice or decision but a natural and necessary thing, that whatever is a man must have a woman and whatever is a woman must have a man.

For this word which God speaks, “Be fruitful and multiply,” is not a command. It is more than a command, namely, a divine

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20
(Repeat from Good Friday)

Easter Day

We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Paschal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Easter Evening

O God, who in the Paschal Feast bestowed restoration upon the world, continue to Your people Your heavenly gift that they may both walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Virgin-Born Christ: “Now just take a look at the perverse lauders of the mother of God. If you ask them why they hold so strongly to the virginity of Mary, they truly could not say. These stupid idolators do nothing more than to glorify only the mother of God; they extol her for her virginity and practically make a false deity of her. But Scripture does not praise this virginity at all for the sake of the mother; neither was she saved on account of her virginity. Indeed, cursed be this and every other virginity if it exists for its own sake, and accomplishes nothing better than its own profit and praise.

The Spirit extols this virginity, however, because it was needful for the conceiving and bearing of this blessed fruit. Because of the corruption of our flesh, such blessed fruit could not come, except through a virgin. Thus this tender virginity existed in the service of others to the glory of God, not to its own glory. If it had been possible for him to have come from a [married] woman, he would not have selected a virgin for this, since virginity is contrary to the physical nature within us, was condemned of old in the law, and is extolled here solely because the flesh is tainted and its built-in physical nature cannot bestow her fruit except by means of an accursed act” (Luther’s Works, v.45 p.205).

ordinance [*werck*] which it is not our prerogative to hinder or ignore. Rather, it is just as necessary as the fact that I am a man, and more necessary than sleeping and waking, eating and drinking, and emptying the bowels and bladder. It is a nature and disposition just as innate as the organs involved in it. Therefore, just as God does not command anyone to be a man or a woman but creates them the way they have to be, so he does not command them to multiply but creates them so that they have to multiply. And wherever men try to resist this, it remains irresistible nonetheless and goes its way through fornication, adultery, and secret sins, for this is a matter of nature and not of choice” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.18).

Catechism - Office of the Keys, Questions One & Two

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given 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.

Where is this written?

This is 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]

Collect for Septuagesima

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Week leading to Sexagesima: January 29 - February 4, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 1 (LW, p. 313)

Hymn – #86 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Daily Readings –

29 Monday	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18
30 Tuesday	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Timothy 2:1-26
31 Wednesday	Zechariah 10:1-11:3	2 Timothy 3:1-18
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Luke 8:4-15	
1 Thursday	Zechariah 11:4-17	2 Timothy 4:1-18
2 Friday	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
10:30 AM	The Presentation of Our Lord Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-32	
3 Saturday	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
4 Sunday	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
10:15 AM	Sexagesima Is. 55:10-13, 2 Cor. 11:19-12:9, Luke 8:4-15	

Family: “In the third place, from this ordinance of creation God has himself exempted three categories of men, saying in Matthew 19[12], “There are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.” Apart from these three groups, let no man presume to be without a spouse. And whoever does not fail within one of these three categories should not consider anything except the estate of marriage. Otherwise it is simply impossible for you to remain righteous. For the Word of God which created you and said, “Be fruitful and multiply,” abides and rules within you; you can by no means ignore it, or you will be bound to commit heinous sins without end.



During the course of the reconstruction of the castle church in Wittenberg, two engineering consultants inspect Luther's grave on February 14, 1892 – against an explicit imperial ban from 1885. At a depth of about seven feet they come upon the coffin. Since it is broken in several spots, it is possible to recognize the bones of the Reformer that are in relatively good condition. On this particular occasion the loose coffin handle was recovered and given to the Luther house on May 16, 1913.

Easter Sunday: April 1, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 118 (LW, p. 346-347)

Hymn - #145 "I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives"

Daily Readings –

31 Saturday	Easter Vigil from 7 to 10:30 PM Saturday 12 Old Testament readings, Col. 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10	
1 Sunday	Exodus 14:10-31	Heb 7:23-8:13
7:00 AM	Easter Dawn - Matins Isaiah 25:6-9, 1 Cor 15:1-11, John 20:1-1	
10:15 AM	Easter Day Job 19:23-27, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Mark 16:1-8	

The Virgin-Born Christ: “On the other hand, this word by which God promises his blessing upon all Gentiles in Christ requires that Christ may not come from a man, or by the act of a man; for work of the flesh (which is cursed) is incompatible with that which is blessed and is pure blessing. Therefore, this blessed fruit had to be the fruit of a woman’s body only, not of a man, even though that very woman’s body came from man, indeed, even from Abraham and Adam. So this mother is a virgin, and yet a true natural mother; not, however, by natural capacity or power, but solely through the Holy Spirit and divine power.

Now this passage [Gen. 22:18] was the gospel from the time of Abraham down to the time of David, even to the time of Christ. It is a short saying, to be sure, but a rich gospel, subsequently inculcated and used in marvelous fashion by the fathers both in writing and in preaching. Many thousands of sermons have been preached from this passage, and countless souls saved. For it is the living word of God, in which Abraham and his descendants believed, and by which they were redeemed and preserved from sin and death and the power of the devil. However, it too was not yet proclaimed publicly to all the world, as happened after the coming of Christ, but remained solely in the possession of the fathers and their descendants” (Luther’s Works, v.45 p.204).

for Eve's body. But the virgin's flesh and blood, from which children come in the case of all other women, was the natural seed of Christ's body. And she too was of the seed of Abraham" (Luther's Works, v.45 p.203-204).

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20
(Repeat from Good Friday)

Collect for Holy Saturday

O Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks that through death You have destroyed the power of death and delivered us, who through fear of death are in our lifetime subject to bondage, comfort us with Your precious merit and assist us in our last hour by Your grace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Martin Luther's grave in the Castle Church in Wittenberg is by the pulpit across from Melancthon's.

Don't let yourself be fooled on this score, even if you should make ten oaths, vows, covenants, and adamantine or ironclad pledges. For as you cannot solemnly promise that you will not be a man or a woman (and if you should make such a promise it would be foolishness and of no avail since you cannot make yourself something other than what you are), so you cannot promise that you will not produce seed or multiply, unless you belong to one of the three categories mentioned above. And should you make such a promise, it too would be foolishness and of no avail, for to produce seed and to multiply is a matter of God's ordinance [*geschöpffe*], not your power.

From this you can now see the extent of the validity of all cloister vows. No vow of any youth or maiden is valid before God, except that of a person in one of the three categories which God alone has himself excepted. Therefore, priests, monks, and nuns are duty-bound to forsake their vows whenever they find that God's ordinance to produce seed and to multiply is powerful and strong within them. They have no power by any authority, law, command, or vow to hinder this which God has created within them. If they do hinder it, however, you may be sure that they will not remain pure but inevitably besmirch themselves with secret sins or fornication. For they are simply incapable of resisting the word and ordinance of God within them. Matters will take their course as God has ordained" (Luther's Works, vol. 45, p.18-19).

Catechism - Office of the Keys, Question Three
What do you believe according to these words?

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.

Collect for Sexagesima

O God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Week leading to Quinquagesima: February 5-11, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 77(LW, p. 334)

Hymn – #86 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Daily Readings –

5 Monday	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
6 Tuesday	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
7 Wednesday	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Luke 18:31-43	
8 Thursday	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
9 Friday	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
10 Saturday	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22-4:6
11 Sunday	Job 7:1-21	John 4:7-45
10:15 AM	Quinquagesima 1 Sam. 16:1-13, 1 Cor. 13:1-13, Lk. 18:31-43	

Family: “In the third part, in order that we may say something about the estate of marriage which will be conducive toward the soul's salvation, we shall now consider how to live a Christian and godly life in that estate. I will pass over in silence the matter of the conjugal duty, the granting and the withholding of it, since some filth-preachers have been shameless enough in this matter to rouse our disgust. Some of them designate special times for this, and exclude holy nights and women who are pregnant. I will leave this as St. Paul left it when he said in I Corinthians 7[:9], “It is better to marry than to burn”; and again [in v. 2], “To avoid immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.” Although Christian married folk should not permit themselves to be governed by their bodies in the passion of lust, as Paul writes to the Thessalonians [I Thess. 4:5], nevertheless each one must examine himself so that by his abstention he does not expose himself to the danger of fornication and other sins. Neither should he pay any attention to holy days or work days, or other physical considerations” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.35-36).

Holy Saturday: March 31, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 16 (LW, p. 315-316)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

	Saturday’s Tenebrae Service on Friday at 3 PM	
31 Saturday	Exodus 13:17-14:9	Hebrews 7:1-22
10:00 AM	<i>Holy Saturday - Matins</i> Daniel 6:1-24, 1 Peter 3:17-22, Matthew 27:57-66	
7:00 PM	Easter begins with The Great Easter Vigil 12 Old Testament readings, Col. 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10	

The Virgin-Born Christ: “The second promise of Christ was to Abraham, Genesis 22[:18], where God said, “In your seed shall all the Gentiles be blessed.” If all the Gentiles are to be blessed, then it is certain that otherwise, apart from this seed of Abraham, they were all unblessed and under a curse. From this it follows that human nature has nothing but cursed seed and bears nothing but unblessed fruit; otherwise, there would be no need for all of them to be blessed through this seed of Abraham. Whoever says “all” excludes no one; therefore, apart from Christ, all who are born of man must be under the devil, cursed in sin and death.

Here again the mother of God is proven to be a pure virgin. For since God cannot lie, it was inevitable that Christ should be the seed of Abraham, that is, his natural flesh and blood, like all of Abraham’s descendants. On the other hand, because he was to be the blessed seed which should bless all others, he could not be begotten by man, since such children, as has been said, cannot not be conceived without sin because of the corrupt and tainted flesh, which cannot perform its function without taint and sin.

Thus the word, by which God promises that Christ will be the seed of Abraham, requires that Christ be born of a woman and be her natural child. He does not come from the earth like Adam [Gen. 2:7]; neither is he from Adam’s rib like Eve [Gen. 2:21–22]. He comes rather like any woman’s child, from her seed. The earth was not the natural seed for Adam’s body; neither was Adam’s rib the natural seed

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20

17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.
18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.
19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.
20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Collect for Good Friday

Almighty God, we implore You graciously to be hold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Melancthon's grave in the Castle Church in Lutherstadt Wittenberg.

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question One

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Collect for Quinquagesima

O Lord, we implore You, mercifully hear our prayers, and, having set us free from the bonds of sin, defend us from all evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The inside of The Market Church of Our Dear Lady in Halle, Germany. In 1541, Justus Jonas introduced the Reformation into Halle with his Good Friday addresses.

Days leading to Invocabit: February 12-18, 2018

Psalm - Feb 11-13 Psalm 6 (LW, p. 314-315)

Feb 14-17 Psalm 91 (LW, p. 336-337)

Hymn – #368 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Daily Readings –

12 Monday	Job 8:1-22	John 4:27-45
13 Tuesday	Job 9:1-35	John 4:46-54
14 Wednesday	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
6:30 PM	Learn-by-Heart (but, no Catechesis Service)	
7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Joel 2:12-19, 2 Pet 1:2-11, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21	
15 Thursday	Genesis 1:20-2:3	Mark 1:14-28
16 Friday	Genesis 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
17 Saturday	Genesis 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17
18 Sunday	Genesis 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28
10:15 AM	Invocabit Gen. 3:1-12, 2 Cor. 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11	

Family: “What we would speak most of is the fact that the estate of marriage has universally fallen into such awful disrepute. There are many pagan books which treat of nothing but the depravity of womankind and the unhappiness of the estate of marriage, such that some have thought that even if Wisdom itself were a woman one should not marry. A Roman official was once supposed to encourage young men to take wives (because the country was in need of a large population on account of its incessant wars). Among other things he said to them, “My dear young men, if we could only live without women we would be spared a great deal of annoyance; but since we cannot do without them, take to yourselves wives,” etc. He was criticized by some on the ground that his words were ill-considered and would only serve to discourage the young men. Others, on the contrary, said that because Metellus was a brave man he had spoken rightly, for an honorable man should speak the truth without fear or hypocrisy.

So they concluded that woman is a necessary evil, and that no household can be without such an evil. These are the words of blind

Good Friday:

March 30, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 22 (LW, p. 319-320)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

	Friday's Tenebrae Service on Thursday at 3 PM	
30 Friday	Exodus 12:29-32; 13:1-16 <i>Optional Lamentations</i> 5:1-22 and Psalm 22	Hebrews 6:1-20
3:00 PM	Tenebrae Service	
7:00 PM	Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, 2 Cor 5:14-21, John 18:1-19:42	

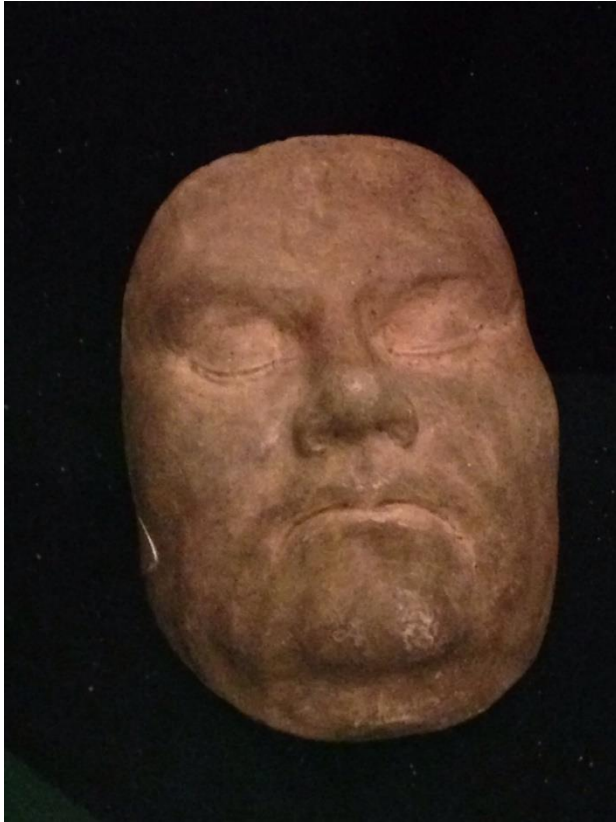
The Virgin-Born Christ: “Now this passage [Gen. 3:15] was the very first gospel message on earth. For when Adam and Eve, seduced by the devil, had fallen and were summoned for judgment before God, Genesis 3[:9], they were in peril of death and the anguish of hell, for they saw that God was against them and condemned them; they would gladly have fled from him, but could not. Had God let them remain in their anguish, they would soon have despaired and perished. But when, after their terrible punishment, he let them hear his comforting promise to raise up from the woman's seed one who would tread upon the serpent's head, their spirits were quickened again. From that promise they drew comfort, believing firmly in that blessed seed of the woman which would come and crush the serpent's head, that is, sin and death, by which they had been crushed and corrupted.

The fathers, from Adam on, preached and inculcated this gospel, through which they acknowledged the promised seed of this woman and believed in him. And so they were sustained through faith in Christ just as we are; they were true Christians like ourselves. Only, in their day this gospel was not proclaimed publicly throughout the world, as it would be after the coming of Christ, but remained solely in the possession of the holy fathers and their descendants down to the time of Abraham.” (Luther's Works, v.45 p.203).

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20
(Repeat from Holy Week)

Collect for Maundy Thursday

O Lord, who has left to us in a wonderful Sacrament a memorial of Your Passion, grant we implore You that we may so use this Sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption continually may be manifest in us; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Martin Luther held three sermons at the market church in Halle. After he died while preaching in his home town of Eisleben in 1546, his body was carried back toward Wittenberg, stopping in Halle where he laid in repose in the church for a night. His friend Lukas Furtenagel had caused a death mask mold of his face and also of his hands to be taken in Eisleben. He left the molds in Halle, where he was from and Luther's body continued to Wittenberg, where it now rests.

heathen, who are ignorant of the fact that man and woman are God's creation. They blaspheme his work, as if man and woman just came into being spontaneously! I imagine that if women were to write books they would say exactly the same thing about men. What they have failed to set down in writing, however, they express with their grumbling and complaining whenever they get together.

Since God had to suffer such disdain of his work from the pagans, he therefore also gave them their reward, of which Paul writes in Romans 1[:24–28], and allowed them to fall into immorality and a stream of uncleanness until they henceforth carnally abused not women but boys and dumb beasts. Even their women carnally abused themselves and each other. Because they blasphemed the work of God, he gave them up to a base mind, of which the books of the pagans are full, most shamelessly crammed full” (Luther's Works, vol. 45, p.35-36).

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question Two

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing that You have made and who forgives the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Invocabit

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Lent

Merciful and everlasting God, who has not spared Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The stone pulpit inside the Market Church of Our Dear Lady (Halle, Germany), with its winding pillar dates from 1541, marking the introduction of the Reformation in Halle, when Justus Johan conducted the first Protestant service in the newly reconstructed church. The stunningly ornate star shaped pulpit canopy replaced the former wooden pulpit five years later in 1546. The stone galleries are in Renaissance style, built in 1549 to 1554. Wooden galleries were added for more capacity in 1698.

Maundy Thursday: March 29, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 116(LW, p. 345-346)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

Thursday's Tenebrae Service on Wednesday at 3 PM		
29 Thursday	Exodus 12:1-28 <i>Optional Lamentations</i> <i>4:1-22 and Psalm 31</i>	Hebrews 5:1-14
	3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Tenebrae Service Maundy Thursday Ex 12:1-14, 1 Co 11:23-32, John 13:1-15(34-35)

The Virgin-Born Christ: “This seed of the woman therefore, because he is to crush the devil’s power, that is, sin and death, must not be an ordinary man, since all men have been brought under the devil through sin and death. So he must certainly be without sin. Now human nature does not produce such seed or fruit, as has been said, for with their sin they are all under the devil. How, then, can this be? The seed must be the natural child of a woman; otherwise, it could not be or be called the seed of the woman. On the other hand, as has been pointed out, human nature and birth does not produce such seed. Therefore, the solution must ultimately be that this seed is a true natural son of the woman; derived from the woman, however, not in the normal way but through a special act of God, in order that the Scripture might stand, that he is the seed only of a woman and not of a man. For the text [Gen. 3:15] clearly states that he will be the seed of woman.

This is thus the first passage in which the mother of this child is described as a virgin. She is his true natural mother; yet she is to conceive and bear supernaturally, by God, without a man, in order that her child may be a distinctive man, without sin, yet having ordinary flesh and blood like other men. This could not have been the case had he been begotten by a man like other men because the flesh is consumed and corrupted by evil lust, so that its natural act of procreation cannot occur without sin. Whatever conceives and bears through an act of the flesh produces also a carnal and sinful fruit. This is why St. Paul says in Ephesians 1 [2:3] that we are all by nature children of wrath.” (Luther’s Works, v.45, p.202).

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20

17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.
18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.
19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.
20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.
- Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.
- Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Collect for Holy Monday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who amid so many adversities do fail through our own infirmities, may be restored through the Passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Holy Tuesday

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's Passion that we may be sustained by the remission of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Holy Wednesday

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds are continually afflicted, may mercifully be relieved by the Passion of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Family: “In order that we may not proceed as blindly, but rather conduct ourselves in a Christian manner, hold fast first of all to this, that man and woman are the work of God. Keep a tight rein on your heart and your lips; do not criticize his work, or call that evil which he himself has called good. He knows better than you yourself what is good and to your benefit, as he says in Genesis 1 [2:18], “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” There you see that he calls the woman good, a helper. If you deem it otherwise, it is certainly your own fault, you neither understand nor believe God’s word and work. See, with this statement of God one stops the mouths of all those who criticize and censure marriage.

For this reason, young men should be on their guard when they read pagan books and hear the common complaints about marriage, lest they inhale poison. For the estate of marriage does not set well with the devil, because it is God’s good will and work. This is why the devil has contrived to have so much shouted and written in the world against the institution of marriage, to frighten men away from this godly life and entangle them in a web of fornication and secret sins. Indeed, it seems to me that even Solomon, although he amply censures evil women, was speaking against just such blasphemers when he said in Proverbs 18[:22], “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.” What is this good thing and this favor? Let us see.

The world says of marriage, “Brief is the joy, lasting the bitterness.” Let them say what they please; what God wills and creates is bound to be a laughingstock to them. The kind of joy and pleasure they have outside of wedlock they will be most acutely aware of, I suspect, in their consciences. To recognize the estate of marriage is something quite different from merely being married. He who is married but does not recognize the estate of marriage cannot continue in wedlock without bitterness, drudgery, and anguish; he will inevitably complain and blaspheme like the pagans and blind, irrational men. But he who recognizes the estate of marriage will find therein delight, love, and joy without end; as Solomon says, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing,” etc. [Prov. 18:22]” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.37).

Week leading to Reminiscere: February 19-25, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 25 (LW, p. 321-322)

Hymn – #368 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Daily Readings –

19 Monday	Genesis 6:1-7:5	Mark 3:1-19	
20 Tuesday	Genesis 7:11-8:12	Mark 3:20-35	
21 Wednesday	Genesis 8:13-9:17	Mark 4:1-20	
	<i>Option Genesis 9:18-11:26</i>		
	7:00 AM 6:30 PM	Ember Wednesday in Lent Ex. 24:12-18, 1 Kings 19:3-8, Matt 12:38-50 Catechesis on Matt 15:21-28	
22 Thursday	Genesis 11:27-12:20	Mark 4:21-41	
23 Friday	Genesis 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20	
	<i>Option Genesis 14:1-24</i>		
7:00 AM	Ember Friday in Lent Ezekiel 18:20-28, John 5:1-15		
24 Saturday	Genesis 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43	
	7:00 AM	Ember Saturday in Lent 1 Thessalonians 5:14-28, Matthew 17:1-9	
	7:00 PM	Vespers on St. Matthias, Apostle Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 1:15-26, Luke 6:12-16	
25 Sunday	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13	
	10:15 AM	Reminiscere Gen. 32:22-32, 1 Thess 4:1-7, Matt 15:21-28	

Family: “Now the ones who recognize the estate of marriage are those who firmly believe that God himself instituted it, brought husband and wife together, and ordained that they should beget children and care for them. For this they have God’s word, Genesis 1[:28], and they can be certain that he does not lie. They can therefore also be certain that the estate of marriage and everything that goes with it in the way of conduct, works, and suffering is pleasing to God. Now tell me, how can the heart have greater good, joy, and delight than in God, when one is certain that his estate, conduct, and work is pleasing to God?”

That is what it means to find a wife. Many *have* wives, but few *find* wives. Why? They are blind; they fail to see that their life and

The Virgin-Born Christ: “Christ is promised for the first time soon after Adam’s fall, when God said to the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall bruise his heel” [Gen. 3:15]. Here I defer demonstrating that the serpent spoke possessed of the devil, for no dumb beast is so clever that it can utter or comprehend human speech, much less speak or inquire about such exalted matters as the commandment of God, as the serpent does here. Therefore, it must certainly have been a rational, highly intelligent, and mighty spirit which was able to utter human speech, deal so masterfully with God’s commandments, and seize and employ human reason.

Since it is certain that a spirit is something higher than a man, it is also certain that this is an evil spirit and an enemy of God, for it breaks God’s commandment and acts contrary to his will. Therefore, it is undoubtedly the devil. And so the word of God which speaks of crushing the head must refer also to the devil’s head; though not to the exclusion of the natural head of the serpent, for with a single word he speaks of both devil and serpent as of one thing. Therefore, he means both heads. But the devil’s head is that power by which the devil rules, that is, sin and death, by means of which he has brought Adam and all Adam’s descendants under his control” (Luther’s Works, v.45 p. 201-202).

Collect for Palm Sunday

Most merciful God, as the crowd at the gate of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son as He came into His holy city, grant that we may ever hail Him as the Son of David who comes in the name of the Lord and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life, that, when He comes again, we may go forth to greet Him with faithful and steadfast heart; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(The prayers continue on next page)

would have remained Jews under the cloak of Christianity for the rest of their days. For they acknowledge that they have never yet heard anything about Christ from those who baptized and taught them” (Luther’s Works, v.45 p. 200).

The Virgin-Born Christ: “I hope that if one deals in a kindly way with the Jews and instructs them carefully from Holy Scripture, many of them will become genuine Christians and turn again to the faith of their fathers, the prophets and patriarchs. They will only be frightened further away from it if their Judaism is so utterly rejected that nothing is allowed to remain, and they are treated only with arrogance and scorn. If the apostles, who also were Jews, had dealt with us Gentiles as we Gentiles deal with the Jews, there would never have been a Christian among the Gentiles. Since they dealt with us Gentiles in such brotherly fashion, we in our turn ought to treat the Jews in a brotherly manner in order that we might convert some of them. For even we ourselves are not yet all very far along, not to speak of having arrived.

When we are inclined to boast of our position we should remember that we are but Gentiles, while the Jews are of the lineage of Christ. We are aliens and in-laws; they are blood relatives, cousins, and brothers of our Lord. Therefore, if one is to boast of flesh and blood, the Jews are actually nearer to Christ than we are, as St. Paul says in Romans 9[:5]. God has also demonstrated this by his acts, for to no nation among the Gentiles has he granted so high an honor as he has to the Jews. For from among the Gentiles there have been raised up no patriarchs, no apostles, no prophets, indeed, very few genuine Christians either. And although the gospel has been proclaimed to all the world, yet He committed the Holy Scriptures, that is, the law and the prophets, to no nation except the Jews, as Paul says in Romans 3[:2] and Psalm 147[:19–20], “He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; nor revealed his ordinances to them” (Luther’s Works, v.45 p. 200-201).

conduct with their wives is the work of God and pleasing in his sight. Could they but find that, then no wife would be so hateful, so ill-tempered, so ill-mannered, so poor, so sick that they would fail to find in her their heart’s delight and would always be reproaching God for his work, creation, and will. And because they see that it is the good pleasure of their beloved Lord, they would be able to have peace in grief, joy in the midst of bitterness, happiness in the midst of tribulations, as the martyrs have in suffering” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.38-39).

Catechism - Lord’s Supper, Question Three

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Collect for Reminiscere

O God, who sees that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Days leading to Oculi: February 26-March 4, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 9 (Not in LW)

Hymn – #368 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Daily Readings –

26 Monday	Genesis 18:1-15 <i>Option Gen 18:16-20:18</i>	Mark 6:14-34
27 Tuesday	Genesis 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
28 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Genesis 22:1-19 Catechesis on Luke 11:14-28	Mark 7:1-23
1 Thursday	Genesis 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
2 Friday	Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 <i>Option Genesis 25:1-26:35</i>	Mark 8:1-21
3 Saturday	Genesis 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38
4 Sunday 10:15 AM	Gen. 27:30-45, 28:10-22 Oculi Exodus 8:16-24, Ephesians 5:1-9, Luke 11:14-28	Mark 9:1-13

Family: “We err in that we judge the work of God according to our own feelings, and regard not his will but our own desire. This is why we are unable to recognize his works and persist in making evil that which is good, and regarding as bitter that which is pleasant. Nothing is so bad, not even death itself, but what it becomes sweet and tolerable if only I know and am certain that it is pleasing to God. Then there follows immediately that of which Solomon speaks, “He obtains favor from the Lord” [Prov. 18:22].

Now observe that when that clever harlot, our natural reason (which the pagans followed in trying to be most clever), takes a look at married life, she turns up her nose and says, “Alas, must I rock the baby, wash its diapers, make its bed, smell its stench, stay up nights with it, take care of it when it cries, heal its rashes and sores, and on top of that care for my wife, provide for her, labor at my trade, take care of this and take care of that, do this and do that, endure this and endure that, and whatever else of bitterness and drudgery married life involves? What, should I make such a prisoner of myself? O you poor, wretched fellow, have you taken a wife? Fie, fie upon such wretchedness and bitterness! It is better to remain free and lead a

Holy Week: March 26-28, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 38 (LW, p.326-327) and Psalm 51 (LW, p. 329-330)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

26 Monday 10:30 AM	Exodus 9:1-28 <i>Optional Lamentations 1:1-22</i>	Heb. 2:1-18
	Holy Monday Is. 50:5-10, 1 Pet 2:21-24, John 12:1-36 (37-43)	
27 Tuesday 10:30 AM	Exodus 9:29-10:20 <i>Optional Lamentations 2:1-22</i>	Heb. 3:1-19
	Holy Tuesday Jer 11:18-20, 1 Tim 6:12-14, Mark 14:1-15:46	
28 Wednesday 10:30 AM	Exodus 10:21-11:10 <i>Optional Lamentations 3:1-66</i>	Heb. 4:1-16
	Holy Wednesday Isa 62:11-63:7, Rev 1:5b-7, Luke 22:1-23:56	
	Tenebrae Service	
	Catechesis on Mark 16:1-8	

The Virgin-Born Christ: “Therefore, I will cite from Scripture the reasons that move me to believe that Christ was a Jew born of a virgin, that I might perhaps also win some Jews to the Christian faith. Our fools, the popes, bishops, sophists, and monks—the crude asses’ heads—have hitherto so treated the Jews that anyone who wished to be a good Christian would almost have had to become a Jew. If I had been a Jew and had seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner have become a hog than a Christian.

They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property. When they baptize them, they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but only subject them to popishness and monkery. When the Jews then see that Judaism has such strong support in Scripture, and that Christianity has become a mere babble without reliance on Scripture, how can they possibly compose themselves and become right good Christians? I have myself heard from pious baptized Jews that if they had not in our day heard the gospel they

14. *What convinces you to believe this?* The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.
15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?* We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.
16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?* First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon Him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, mercifully grant that we may both be guided by His patience in this life and also be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

peaceful, carefree life; I will become a priest or a nun and compel my children to do likewise.”

What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit, and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest gold and jewels” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.39).

Catechism - Lord’s Supper, Question Four

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Collect for Oculi

We implore You, almighty God, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your mercy to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The organ inside The Market Church of Our Dear Lady in Halle, Germany. There are organs at each end of the church. The Reichel Organ on the eastern end is one of the oldest still functioning organs in Germany, built in 1664 by Georg Reichel. On the opposite end, set in a Baroque master framework is a modern replacement from 1984.

Week leading to Laetare: March 5-11, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 122 (Not in LW)

Hymn – #368 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Daily Readings –

5 Monday	Genesis 29:1-30 <i>Optional Gen. 29:31-34:31</i>	Mark 9:14-32
6 Tuesday	Genesis 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
7 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Genesis 37:1-36 Catechesis on St. John 6:1-15	Mark 10:1-12
8 Thursday	Genesis 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
9 Friday	Genesis 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52
10 Saturday	Genesis 41:1-27	Mark 11:1-9
11 Sunday 10:15 AM	Genesis 41:28-57 Laetare Exodus 16:2-21, Galatians 4:21-31, John 6:1-15	Mark 11:20-33

Family: “What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit, and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest gold and jewels. It says, “O God, because I am certain that thou hast created me as a man and hast from my body begotten this child, I also know for a certainty that it meets with thy perfect pleasure. I confess to thee that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers, or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother. How is it that I, without any merit, have come to this distinction of being certain that I am serving thy creature and thy most precious will? O how gladly will I do so, though the duties should be even more insignificant and despised. Neither frost nor heat, neither drudgery nor labor, will distress or dissuade me, for I am certain that it is thus pleasing in thy sight.”

A wife too should regard her duties in the same light, as she suckles the child, rocks and bathes it, and cares for it in other ways; and as she busies herself with other duties and renders help and obedience to her husband. These are truly golden and noble works. This is also how to comfort and encourage a woman in the pangs of childbirth, not by repeating St. Margaret legends and other silly old wives’ tales but by speaking thus, “Dear Grete, remember that you

Conversely, we learn how wretched is the spiritual estate of monks and nuns by its very nature, for it lacks the word and pleasure of God. All its works, conduct, and sufferings are un-Christian, vain, and pernicious, so that Christ even says to their warning in Matthew 15[:9], “In vain do they worship me according to the commandments of men.” There is therefore no comparison between a married woman who lives in faith and in the recognition of her estate, and a cloistered nun who lives in unbelief and in the presumptuousness of her ecclesiastical estate, just as God’s ways and man’s ways are beyond compare, as He says in Isaiah 55[:9], “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.” It is a great blessing for one to have God’s word as his warrant, so that he can speak right up and say to God, “See, this thou hast spoken, it is thy good pleasure.” What does such a man care if it seems to be displeasing and ridiculous to the whole world?” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.41-42).

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 10-16

10. *Did the Father also die for you?* He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
11. *How do you know this?* From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
12. *What are the words of institution?* Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?* Yes, I believe it.

(The prayers continue on next page)

Week leading to Palmarum: March 19-25, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 73 (LW, p.332-334)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

19 Monday	Exodus 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
	Passion Monday John 7:32-39	
20 Tuesday	Exodus 2:23-3:22	Mark 14:53-72
	Passion Tuesday John 7:1-13	
21 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Exodus 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
	Passion Wednesday John 10:23-38	
	Catechesis on Matthew 26:1-27:66	
22 Thursday	Exodus 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
	Passion Thursday Luke 7:36-50	
23 Friday	Exodus 5:1-6:1	Mark 15:33-47
	Passion Friday John 11:47-54	
24 Saturday	Exodus 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20
	Passion Saturday John 12:10-36	
25 Sunday 10:15 AM	Exodus 8:1-32 <i>optional Psalm 118</i>	Hebrews 1:1-14
	Palmarum Zech 9:9-12, Phil. 2:5-11, Matthew 26:1-27:66	

Family: “I say these things in order that we may learn how honorable a thing it is to live in that estate which God has ordained. In it we find God’s word and good pleasure, by which all the works, conduct, and sufferings of that estate become holy, godly, and precious so that Solomon even congratulates such a man and says in Proverbs 5[:18], “Rejoice in the wife of your youth,” and again in Ecclesiastes 11 [9:9], “Enjoy life with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life.” Doubtless, Solomon is not speaking here of carnal pleasure, since it is the Holy Spirit who speaks through him. He is rather offering godly comfort to those who find much drudgery in married life. This he does by way of defense against those who scoff at the divine ordinance and, like the pagans, seek but fail to find in marriage anything beyond a carnal and fleeting sensual pleasure.

are a woman, and that this work of God in you is pleasing to him. Trust joyfully in his will, and let him have his way with you. Work with all your might to bring forth the child. Should it mean your death, then depart happily, for you will die in a noble deed and in subservience to God. If you were not a woman you should now wish to be one for the sake of this very work alone, that you might thus gloriously suffer and even die in the performance of God’s work and will. For here you have the word of God, who so created you and implanted within you this extremity.” Tell me, is not this indeed (as Solomon says [Prov. 18:22]) “to obtain favor from the Lord,” even in the midst of such extremity?” (Luther’s Works, vol. 45, p.39-40).

Catechism - Lord’s Supper, Question Five

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.

Collect for Laetare

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may be mercifully relieved; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Week leading to Judica: March 12-18, 2018

Psalm - Psalm 43 (Not in LW)

or Psalm 143 (LW, p.363)

Hymn – #97 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Daily Readings –

12 Monday	Genesis 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
13 Tuesday	Genesis 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
14 Wednesday	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
	No Learn-by Heart/Catechesis	
15 Thursday	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
16 Friday	Genesis 47:1-31 <i>Opt. Genesis 48:1-49:28</i>	Mark 13:24-37
17 Saturday	Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11
18 Sunday 10:15 AM	Exodus 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
	Judica Gen 22:1-14, Heb 9:11-15, John 8:(42-45) 46-59	

Lord's Supper: "Now you tell me, when a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other mean task for his child, and someone ridicules him as an effeminate fool—though that father is acting in the spirit just described and in Christian faith—my dear fellow you tell me, which of the two is most keenly ridiculing the other? God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling—not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith. Those who sneer at him and see only the task but not the faith are ridiculing God with all his creatures, as the biggest fool on earth. Indeed, they are only ridiculing themselves; with all their cleverness they are nothing but devil's fools.

St. Cyprian, that great and admirable man and holy martyr, wrote that one should kiss the newborn infant, even before it is baptized, in honor of the hands of God here engaged in a brand new deed. What do you suppose he would have said about a baptized infant? There was a true Christian, who correctly recognized and regarded God's work and creature. Therefore, I say that all nuns and monks who lack faith, and who trust in their own chastity and in their order, are not worthy of rocking a baptized child or preparing its pap, even if it were the child of a harlot. This is because their order and manner of

life has no word of God as its warrant. They cannot boast that what they do is pleasing in God's sight, as can the woman in childbirth, even if her child is born out of wedlock" (Luther's Works, vol. 45, p.40-41).

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 1-9

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?* Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. *How do you know this?* From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. *Are you sorry for your sins?* Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?* His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Rom. 6:21, 23.
5. *Do you hope to be saved?* Yes, that is my hope.
6. *In whom then do you trust?* In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
7. *Who is Christ?* The Son of God, true God and man.
8. *How many Gods are there?* Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?* He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Collect for Judica/Passion Sunday

We implore You, almighty God, mercifully to look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**