

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the week of the Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021 through April 25, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Christian Meditation—“When the language of the catechism is learned by heart, it becomes an indispensable aid in meditation, and is continually used by the Holy Spirit for our comfort and to awaken in us new understandings. Christian meditation is to give one’s mind and heart to the contemplation of God’s Word. It is to reflect upon and ponder the Word of God. To put it crassly, Christian meditation is the ‘regurgitation’ of the Word of God. Like a cow that chews her cud, it involves recalling the Word of God that has been previously “implanted” in the heart, for the purpose of receiving from it even greater blessings for our faith and life. This can only happen when the Word of God and the text of the catechism are committed to memory, or ‘learned by heart.’ Unlike other forms of meditation which teach the individual to find renewed strength and peace from that which is within the self, Christian meditation directs us away from our sinful self to find our comfort, strength, and life in the ‘implanted word, which is able to save [our] souls’”—(Excerpted from the Introduction to Lutheran Catechesis, p. 3). The Congregation at Prayer affords us the opportunity to discipline our flesh with the Word of God and prayer. It sets before us regular portions of the Catechism, Bible Verses, Bible Stories, Psalms, and Hymns for meditation and prayer. The table of psalms enables us to pray through the entire Psalter (150 psalms) over a 60 day period. The psalms are God’s Word given us to pray, confess, and sing. They are understood through faith in Christ who learned and prayed them by heart throughout His life. We can pray them through faith in Him since He “carried all our sorrows and infirmities” and was still, for us and for our salvation, the righteous man of faith.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

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 of the week: Matthew 11:28-29

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Psalm 4 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

The Catechism: The Fifth through Eighth Commandments

<i>What is the Fifth Commandment?</i> You shall not murder.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.	First Grade +
<i>What is the Sixth Commandment?</i> You shall not commit adultery.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	First Grade +
<i>What is the Seventh Commandment?</i> You shall not steal.	Preschool +
<i>What is the Eighth Commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +

Readings for the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus Appears to His Disciples—Luke 24:36-49	Ex. 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
Monday	Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead – 1 Samuel 11:1-15	Ex. 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
Tuesday	Samuel’s Address at Saul’s Coronation – 1 Samuel 12:1, (2-12), 14-25	Ex. 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
Wednesday	Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice – 1 Samuel 13:1-14	Ex. 34:29-35:21	Luke 7:36-50
Thursday	Saul’s Wars and His Unfaithfulness – 1 Samuel 14:52-15:9	Ex. 38:2139:8, 22-23, 27-31	Luke 8:1-21
Friday	Saul is Rejected by the Lord – 1 Samuel 15:10-35	Ex. 39:32-40:16	Luke 8:22-39
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	Ex. 40:17-38	Luke 8:40-56

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the week of the Third Sunday of Easter:

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work, for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacraments of Christ’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.*

In our Prayers at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Debbie Byrd, Bobbie Sherrod, Denny Willis, Al Culberson, Barbara Cole, Suzanne Richardson, Dante Pelligrino, Rachel Moreland, Joy Kroeger, Tina Sawall, Peg Munson, Diane Goains, Richard Schroeder, Debbie Drowwall, Gordon Munson, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

The Rice Family and the King Family

Our Shut-ins

Employment

Peace and Comfort

Expectant Mothers

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

College Students

Gabrielle Funke, Hailey Richardson, Jared Rohloff, Logan Rohloff, Ben Schielke, Jacob Schielke, Gina Visingardi

Seminarian

John Schober

Blessings

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

“These Are the Holy Ten Commands”

LSB 581