

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini
 April 15, 2018 through April 22, 2018

Catechesis Notes for the Week — To Husbands— Chief among the offices that God has established in the creation of man are the offices of husband and wife. A husband is a man, joined in love to his wife in marriage, who cares for her and “cultivates” life with her in the procreation of children. When the Apostle Peter directs, “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers,” he is reminding husbands that their wives have been given an office by God that places them in a subordinate position to them. It would be very easy for the husband, corrupted by the sinful flesh as he is, to take advantage of his headship and the wife’s position of subordination to him. He is to “be considerate” of the position that God gave her and be husband to her in selfless love. Although they are not both in the same office, they are, nevertheless, equal “heirs of the gracious gift of life” in Christ Jesus. If he does not believe that, then his prayers, which include the ministration of his office as a husband, will be “hindered.” The essential disposition of the husband to the wife is contained in the passage from Colossians: “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” Here the husband’s office is depicted as the office of Christ who cares for His bride the Church, as it is also in Ephesians 5:22-33. Christ loves His bride by laying down His life for her and by covering her sins with His blood. He is never harsh with her who is “bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, but nourishes and cares for her as His own body.” The office of husband finds its identity in Christ, the Church’s Bridegroom. [Reprinted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

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. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: Jesus Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 8:31b-32

If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,
 how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Psalm 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love You laid down Your life for us Your sheep. We give You praise and glory for Your unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You through the valley of the shadow of death. Deliver us from all our foes until Your whole flock shall be gathered about You in the resurrection on the last day, for You live and reign with the father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	136, 117

Readings for the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus, the Good Shepherd—John 10:11-16	Exodus 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
Monday	Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14	Exodus 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
Tuesday	Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25	Exodus 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
Wednesday	The Lord Calls to the Boy Samuel—1 Samuel 2:12, 18-21; 3:1-20	Ex. 34:29—35:21	Luke 7:36-50
Thursday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Captured—1 Samuel 3:21—4:18 (19-22)	Ex. 38:21—39:8, 22-23, 27-31	Luke 8:1-21
Friday	The Ark Brings Judgment upon the Philistines—1 Samuel 5:1—6:1	Exodus 39:32—40:16	Luke 8:22-39
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Exodus 40:17-38	Luke 8:40-56
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17

The Catechism: The Table of Duties— To Husbands

What does God's Word say to husbands? Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:7
Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.	First Grade + Colossians 3:19

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects for the Week

Prayer for Husbands

O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion the men of Your Church into husbands made in Your image, who love their wives and sacrifice themselves for them, even as You gave Yourself for us, Your bride the Church. Teach them to respect their wives and to treat them with tenderness, compassion, and lovingkindness. Deliver them from all pride and arrogance so that they do not take advantage of their wives, but honor them as joint heirs of the gracious gift of life. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

*The hope of the resurrection of the body to eternal life
Erma Suelflow, celebrating the 90th anniversary of her birth
The sick and dying.
Bob Piper undergoing treatment for blood cancer.*

Easter Collect to live in Christ

Heavenly Father, of Your abundant mercy You have begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we beseech You, let Your great love move us to rise up, forsake all, and follow Christ, that, as we have been redeemed by His blood, we may walk in the light of His holy life and be joined to Him evermore as the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini

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.

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

Hymn of the Week

"With High Delight Let Us Unite" (stanza 1)

483

Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate

April 22, 2018

Hymns: 468, 756, 464, 646, 617, 483

Isaiah 40:25-31: "But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (vs. 31). This word of God from the prophet Isaiah echoes the confession of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Both of these passages underscore the comforting truth that the Christian's strength to be a Christian and to live faithfully and joyously in the freedom of the Gospel comes entirely from the Lord.

1 Peter 2:11-20: Peter tells us to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." This admonition reminds us that the desires and appetites of the flesh are at enmity with faith. Just as faith is turned outward to Christ and finds its sufficiency in Him, so the flesh has a faith of its own which turns inward to every self-centered desire. Contrition and repentance, confession and absolution are our weapons against the fleshly lusts and the means by which we learn to abstain from them for the sake of our soul's salvation.

John 16:16-22: Jesus describes His suffering and death as "a little while." During this "little while" He goes to the Father to offer His lifeblood into death for our sins. This "little while" was filled with great grief for the disciples, but their sorrow was turned to joy in His resurrection from the dead. From this "little while" we learn what is characteristic for us and the Church in this world. The "little while" of Christ's suffering and the lamentation of the disciples corresponds to the "little while" of the Church's and every individual Christian's suffering because of sin and persecution. Nevertheless, this "little while" is short-lived. Our Lord is not only risen from the dead, but He comes to us with His grace and forgiveness to turn our sorrow into joy. There is joy in the Christian life now. We do not have to wait for it until the resurrection on the last day. It is a joy in the midst of the cross of affliction.