

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate
 May 12 through May 19, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 32: The Blessedness of Being Forgiven—Psalm 32 is a prayer in which David rejoices in the blessed estate of being forgiven all his sin. Forgiveness of sins is the declaration that we are righteous for Christ’s sake. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity.” In Psalm 32, David outlines how the Christian is led from the burden of sin that troubles his conscience and torments his life to the freedom that comes from a repentant faith that confesses sin and flees to Christ for forgiveness. “When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.” It is only when there is repentance and an honest confession of sin that the comfort and blessing of Christ’s forgiveness can be received and enjoyed. “I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.” This is why God calls us to repentance: to forgive sin, which strengthens faith in Christ, and comforts the troubled conscience. “For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You.” The godly are not those who have never sinned, but those sinners who have been brought to repentance and faith and who live in Christ’s forgiveness as the source of their life’s comfort and strength. The way of daily contrition and repentance is the way of every sinner. To refuse the call to repentance, confession, and absolution is to be self-righteous and stubborn, like a horse or mule with no understanding. “The wicked” are those who have refused the call to repentance. “The godly” are those who hear, confess, and believe. “The wicked” have many sorrows, not because the forgiven sinner has none, but because Christ’s forgiveness enables us to bear the sorrows with patience, joy, and hope. “He who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous” for your sins are forgiven in Christ Jesus.

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.

Theme: Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 3:28

A man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, thank you for calling me to repentance and for the gift of Your forgiveness. Deliver me from stubborn, self-righteous pride that will not acknowledge my sin. Teach me to confess my sins and to flee to Your absolution for help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147
Evening	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146

Readings for the Fourth Week of Easter

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	“Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy”—John 16:16-22	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
Monday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26	Lev. 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
Tuesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Lev. 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
Wednesday	Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Lev. 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
Thursday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Lev. 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
Friday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Lev. 18:1-7, 20—19:8	Luke 11:1-13
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36
Sunday	Sunday’s Readings	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54

The Catechism: The Table of Duties — To Workers of All Kinds

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth through tenth commandments)

What does God's Word say to workers of all kinds? Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:5
Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.	Second Grade + Ephesians 6:6
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:7
because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.	Fourth Grade + Ephesians 6:8

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

Prayer for Workers of All Kinds

Heavenly Father, Your Son became a slave for us to redeem us from all sin. He worked for our salvation, though we did not deserve it, and He submitted to Your will with all His heart. Forgive us all dishonor and disrespect toward our earthly masters, and grant us the grace of Your Son that we might serve in our life's work with faithfulness toward You and in love and obedience for those we are called to serve, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer (LSB p. 294)

In Our Prayers this Week

Rev. Matthew and Amy Uttenreither celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary.

Rev. Herb Mueller, First-Vice President of the LCMS, recuperating from surgery for a brain tumor.

Thomas Verage, son of Rev. Kyle and Grace Verage, and Grayson, son of Ryan and Andrea Palmer, born prematurely.

Mark Goltermann, who underwent hand surgery May 9.

The Sick: Deacon Gatchell, Mary, niece of Beth Boehringer, who had abdominal surgery and is hospitalized with pneumonia during her treatment for lymphocytic leukemia; Patricia Kachelmeyer, mother of Paul; Joan, sister of Geri Zaretske; Dan, friend of the Welches; Achim, nephew of Luise Bollmeyer.

Hospice care: Shirley Kessler

Friends and family of Elsie Neumann and Otto Kampin (Harold Kampin's brother) who mourn their deaths.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

"This Joyful Eastertide" (stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate

May 19, 2019

Hymns: 874, 556, 155, 619, 768, 488

Isaiah 12:1-6: This section of Isaiah records a great song in praise of the Lord for His salvation. This is the song of the faithful who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and declared righteous for Jesus' sake. Like all faithful hymns and canticles, it extols the objective works of the Lord for our salvation and draws us outside ourselves to Him in confident faith and joyful praise of His salvation.

James 1:16-21: James speaks of the "implanted Word which is able to save your souls." The Spirit calls us by the Word of the Gospel to faith in Christ. He "implants" the Word in us. This is how the "conception" of the new life in Christ begins. The Spirit then brings about our new birth in Holy Baptism and we are the children of God. The life begun in us by the implanted Word moves us to turn away from all the filthiness of our unbelieving nature, because it is the life of Christ Himself in us—the Father's good and perfect gift.

John 16:5-15: Jesus teaches concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin through the preaching of repentance, we cannot be turned from unbelief to faith in Christ. Without the conviction of sin, the sinner has no use for Christ. The death of Christ for the sins of the world is the righteousness of God. Man is sinner. The proclamation of the Gospel creates faith in Christ and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake. The proclamation of the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake is the heart of the Spirit's work. The judgment of God that the sinner is righteous for Christ's sake sets man free from the judgment of the Law that the devil uses to condemn the world. Since God forgives us all sin and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake as a gift of His grace, the devil cannot accuse us of sin or damn us to eternal death." (from Lutheran Catechism p. 127)