

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate  
May 3, through May 10, 2020

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 78:1-25—Prayer to Understand the Lord’s Parable and Dark Sayings—**What a mystery the Gospel is! In response to our rebellion and fighting against God, He gives us His Son to bear the wrath that we deserve! This is the “parable” and the “dark sayings of old” of which the Psalm of Asaph speaks. The mystery of the Gospel of God’s love goes all the way back into the Old Testament and the Lord’s dealings with the children of Israel. He redeemed them from slavery and was faithful to them, despite their rebellion against Him. Psalm 78 calls us to remember the Lord’s faithfulness in His gracious and saving acts for the rebellious children of Israel, so that we might tell our children and succeeding generations the “mystery of His love.” We recite the history of the Lord’s salvation for His people, so that we do not forget and so that we live in humble repentance and faith. We are called to see the example of His faithfulness to Israel, so that we do not forget His works or turn away from His Word as they did. It is the Lord who delivered them through the Red Sea, led them by the glory cloud, fed them with manna from heaven, and gave them to drink water from the Rock! He was faithful to them, especially when they rebelled against Him, even though they were faithless. These are the “dark or hard sayings.” They kindled His wrath, but He answered them with mercy by striking the Rock to quench their thirst. Is this not the mystery of the Gospel? We deserve His wrath for our rebellion, yet He strikes His own Son upon the cross instead of us, giving us to eat of His body and to drink of His blood for our salvation. No wonder the psalmist says that we are to make this known to our children and to tell it to the generation to come, that they also might know the mystery of God’s love and faithfulness.

## 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: Our Sorrow Is Turned to Joy!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction;  
<sup>12</sup> for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

#### Psalm 78:1-25 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Heavenly Father, preserve us from impenitence and unbelief. Grant us to remember Your saving acts of old and Your faithfulness to the unworthy, that we might faithfully teach our children and the next generation of Christians the mystery of Your love in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129
Evening	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 4:</b> “Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy”—John 16:16-22	
Monday	I am the Vine—John 15:1-8	Jer. 9:23-24; 10:11-16
Tuesday	As the Father Loved Me, I also Have Loved You—John 15:9-17	Jeremiah 31:2-9
Wednesday	The World’s Hatred—John 15:18-25	Psalm 9
Thursday	The Comforter in Persecution—John 15:26—16:4	Isaiah 59:17-21
Friday	The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Saturday	Easter 5: The Song of Isaiah—Isaiah 12:1-6	James 1:16-21

### The Catechism: The Table of Duties — To Parents and Children

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

What does God’s Word say to parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:4
What does God’s Word say to children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:1

“Honor your father and mother” —  
which is the first commandment with a promise—  
“that it may go well with you  
and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Second Grade +  
Ephesians 6:2-3

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

**Prayer for Parents**

*Heavenly Father, You have given us the gift of children who are to be brought up in the training and instruction of the Gospel of Your Son. Give to all Christian fathers and mothers the strength and will to teach the Word of God to their children, and to see this responsibility as their most important duty. Deliver them from the temptation to abandon this sacred trust. Grant them faithfulness in their calling as parents, that they might love and care for their children even as You love and care for them in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Prayer for Children**

*Heavenly Father, grant Your grace in Christ to all Christian children that they might honor their parents in spite of their failings, and enjoy a long and blessed life according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Andrew Stauber and Mark Thoni (5/2), Corey Venkitaswaran (5/5), Sharon Murphy (5/9).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Cathy and Larry Drahos (5/4), Jack and Debra Christopherson (5/5),

Jim and Kathleen Miller (5/8), Doug and Pat Pom (5/9).

**Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion**

**The sick:** Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS; Walter Schmudlach, with an inoperable tumor;

Pat Murphy recovering from a back injury after a fall. Carl Duwe recovering from hip surgery after a fall.

**In hospice care:** Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

**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**

**“For Me to Live Is Jesus” (stanzas 1-3)**

**LSB 742**

**Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate**

**May 10, 2020**

**Hymns: 556 (1-5), 155, 556 (6-10), 768, 478**

**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 Catechesis p. 127)*