

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate  
May 10, through May 17, 2020

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 78:25-52—A Prayer Remembering the Longsuffering Mercy of God for Rebels—**  
The next section of Psalm 78 rehearses the pattern of the Lord's mercy toward the children of Israel in spite of their ongoing backsliding and rebellion. The meat they demanded from the Lord in the wilderness did not satisfy them, because they did not receive it in faith and thanksgiving. When they turned from Him, He visited them in wrath to bring them to repentance. When they were repentant, He rescued them. Nevertheless, they continued the pattern of rebelling against Him again and again. When they returned to Him, "He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them... He remembered that they were but flesh [sinful and unclean], a breath that passes away and does not come again." When the Lord sent plagues of judgment upon the Egyptians, they witnessed how they enjoyed God's favor as the Children of Israel, yet it so often seemed to make no difference to them. Psalm 78 stands as a witness to us of God's overwhelming grace to the people He called by His name. The example of Israel's perpetual backsliding serves as a warning to us against the desire of our own flesh to drag us away from the Lord. Nevertheless, Psalm 78 is also a clear witness to salvation by grace and that the Lord will never forsake His people: "He destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt... But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock."

## 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: The Holy Spirit Will Testify of Christ!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

#### Verse: Mark 10:45

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and to give His life a ransom for many.

#### Psalm 78:25-52 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful Lord, deliver us from the corruption of our sinful nature so that we do not rebel against You as the Children of Israel did, but rather live each day in humble contrition and repentance with fervent faith in Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148
Evening	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 5:</b> The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	
Monday	Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy—John 16:16-23	Jeremiah 31:10-14
Tuesday	Ask and You Will Receive—John 16:23b-33	1 Chronicles 16:8-13
Wednesday	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-10	1 Chronicles 16:14-22
Thursday	Jesus Prays for the Apostles—John 17:11-19	1 Chronicles 16:23-30
Friday	Jesus Prays for All Who Will Believe in Him—John 17:20-26	1 Chronicles 16:31-36
Saturday	Easter 6: The Fiery Serpents—Numbers 21:4-9	1 Timothy 2:1-6

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

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the first 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.

**In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** David Haga (5/10), Pat Pom (5/11), Rev. Peter Bender (5/12), Erma Suelflow (5/13),  
Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe (5/14), Doris Erickson (5/15).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Rev. Matt and Amy Uttenreither (5/10), Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15).

**Thanksgiving for the birth of** Christine Violet Haga born 5/5/20 to Rachel and Tyler Haga.

**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.

**Those who mourn:** Family and friends of Alice Kaldunski, eldest sister of Anna Steinhilb, who mourn her death.

**Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate**

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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**

**"You are the Way; through You Alone" (stanzas 1-3)**

**LSB 526**

**Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate**

**May 17, 2020**

**Hymns: 702, 773, 484, 526**

**Numbers 21:4-9:** The bite of the fiery serpents was sent upon the Children of Israel that they might see the consequences of their rebellion against God. God afflicted them that God might bring them to repentance and faith. Moses interceded for them and the people confessed their sin in repentant faith. God's will was done. He provided salvation through the sign of the bronze serpent upon the pole that future generations would look upon the one who hung in shame from the cross for the salvation of the entire world. The innocent Son of God became what we are as the Father imputed to Him our iniquity, that we might become what He is: righteous, holy, and eternally reconciled to the Father. Whoever "looks upon the bronze serpent" or "believes in the Son's sacrifice for us upon the cross" shall be saved.

**1 Timothy 2:1-6:** Paul's words to Timothy, responsible for training pastors and instructing them in the conduct of the liturgy indicates what the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service should include and why: "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

**John 16:23-33:** Prayer is central to the Church, her ministry, and the Christian's own faith and life. "Prayer in Jesus' name" is prayer that asks for the gifts and help that Jesus promises in the Gospel. If the Church is troubled by persecution and suffering, she is to pray for strength. If she is tempted to unfaithfulness, she is to pray for faithfulness. If you have sinned, pray for forgiveness. If you are tempted by the devil, pray for deliverance. If you are weak in fulfilling the responsibilities of your calling, pray for strength. We have Jesus' sure and certain promise: "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." Our prayers are heard and they are absolutely answered when they are anchored in God's Word. Like the disciples before us, our faith, too, often wanes. They scattered and fled from Him, yet they were able to be restored because of His promise of grace to them in the Gospel. The same is true for us. "These things I have spoken to you," Jesus said, "that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."