

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate
 May 17, through May 24, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 78:52-72—The Faithfulness of the Lord in Shepherding His Flock—The final section of Psalm 78 emphasizes the image of the Old Testament Church as a flock that is faithfully guided and cared for by the Lord, like a shepherd who tends his flock. The pattern of the Children of Israel rebelling against the Lord continues in this final section of the psalm. It rehearses more of Israel’s history—from their sojourn to the Mountain of the Lord to receive the Lord’s testimony, to the Lord’s conquest of the land of Canaan on their behalf, to His election of the tribe of Judah and the selection of David to be their king and a type of Christ, the Lord was faithful to them. Like a flock that ran away from its shepherd and wandered into danger, the children of Israel continued their pattern of rebellion. Nevertheless, the Lord was their faithful Shepherd. Though “they tested and provoked the Most High God, and did not keep His testimonies, but turned and acted unfaithfully like their fathers,” yet the Lord disciplined and chastened them to bring about their repentance and return to His salvation. The Lord chose David to be their king, “to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.” David became a prophetic picture of Christ, the Good Shepherd, who would lay down His life to save the rebellious flock. “So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.”

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: Jesus Prays for Us

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 14:2-3

In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Psalm 78:52-72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, deliver us from impenitence and, like a faithful shepherd, restore Your flock, the Church, to faithfulness to Your Holy Word and to the confession of Your saving name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20
Evening	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 6: “Whatever you ask in My name...”—John 16:23-33	
Monday	The Commission to Baptize and Teach All Nations—Mt. 28:16-20	Daniel 7:9-14
Tuesday	Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20	Joshua 1:1-9
Wednesday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Genesis 22:1-19
Thursday	Ascension of Our Lord: Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Friday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Saturday	Easter 7: “I will give you a new heart...”—Ezekiel 36:22-28	1 Peter 4:7-14

The Catechism: The Table of Duties— To Employers and Supervisors; To Youth

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

What does God’s Word say to employers and supervisors? Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:9
What does God’s Word say to youth? Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”	First Grade + 1 Peter 5:5
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.	Second Grade + 1 Peter 5:6

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

Prayer for Employers and Supervisors

Gracious Lord, You have given us great responsibilities and authority as employers and supervisors of others. Teach us by Your grace and mercy to treat our workers and those who are under us with respect, understanding, and compassion. Give us a humble spirit toward them and help us to see our workers as gifts of God who depend upon us for their livelihood and who enable us to be of greater service to others for whom we perform our life's work; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Youth

O Lord, as You in humility and faith submitted Yourself to Mary and Joseph and to every authority instituted among men for our salvation, teach us to submit to our elders and to believe that You will accomplish Your good purposes in our lives and in the lives of others through such honor and respect; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Kevin Larson (5/16), Hannah Hardenbrook, John Lehman, Ed Lemke, Jason Petersen (5/17),

Kurt Meyle Sr. (5/18), Jacob Weber (5/19), Robert Corso (5/20), Peter Greschner (5/21), Abigail Vogt (5/22).

Wedding Anniversaries: Paul and Jennifer Johnson, (5/18), Jeffrey and Ali Meehan (5/20), Mark and Julie Goltermann (5/22).

Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion

First Communion: Alec Welch

The sick: Roger Laubenstein, hospitalized with a blood infection; 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, sister of Anna Steinhilb, who mourn her death.

Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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

"The Head That Once Was Crowned"

LSB 532

Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi

May 24, 2020

Hymns: 913, 647, 666, 482

Ezekiel 36:22-28: The prophet Ezekiel catechizes us on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we "hallow God's holy name" by calling upon it in every time of need. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we do not profane God's name but live faithfully in this vale of tears. The Holy Spirit sanctifies by the Word of God in baptism by "sprinkling clean water on us, cleansing us from all our filthiness ... and giving us a new heart and putting a new spirit within us." It is the Spirit, through the divine Word who "takes our heart of stone out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh" so that we walk faithfully in the Lord's Word.

1 Peter 4:7-14: The Apostle Peter encourages the Church in the face of suffering. The "fiery trial" of suffering is not "strange" to us if we know what the Bible teaches about the condition of the sinful heart. It is to be expected. Such suffering and persecution that we endure because of our confession of faith should be interpreted as a reason to rejoice because it means that we belong to Christ and, that by enduring such persecution in love for our enemies, we bear witness to the love of God in Christ. "Rejoice ... be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

John 15:26—16:4: On the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Jesus' catechesis directs us to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost. The Spirit is called the Helper or Comforter because His work is to minister the strength and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us. The Holy Spirit will make it possible for the apostles and the Church to endure suffering and persecution without falling away from Christ. The Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of Truth" because He "testifies" through the Word of God to the truth of who we are, of who Christ is, and of what Jesus has done in love for our salvation. By the testimony of the Spirit alone, sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. Jesus also instructed His apostles that persecution is coming for the Church, so that when they experience the persecution they will not stumble and fall away from their faith in Christ. It is an amazing phenomenon that the message of ultimate love and comfort for sinners—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—should be met with such violent hatred. The hatred of impenitent unbelief can be so great that those who persecute Christians and put them to death actually live under the delusion that they are rendering God a service. In spite of such bitter hatred and persecution, Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only makes it possible for us to endure such suffering, but that through such persecution the Church and her ministers also testify to the suffering and death of Jesus as the source of salvation for the world.