

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi  
 May 24, through May 31, 2020

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 79—A Prayer When the Lord Allows Enemies to Invade His Kingdom—Psalm 79** is a lament from God’s people who have been suffering under the oppression of an unbelieving people who invaded the kingdom of Judah. It is important to note that this “invasion” was God’s judgment against Jerusalem. Foreign nations have come into the inheritance of the Lord, not as converts to the faith, but as those who came to destroy. “Your holy temple they have defiled; they have laid Jerusalem in heaps.” It is difficult, at times, to grasp that God actually uses His enemies to do His bidding. In this case, He raised up foreign powers to visit His judgment against His Old Testament Church as a call to repentance. This is why Psalm 79 includes a corporate confession of sins: “Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name’s sake!” The New Testament Church often finds herself in the same situation. The culture is against the Church. False doctrine threatens the Gospel. Foreign powers try to silence the Church’s witness. We suffer oppression in various forms. Against the backdrop of all of this, we cry out with the psalmist: “How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever?” In the end, it is not the Lord’s intention to destroy, no matter how intense His judgment may get. Instead, it is His intention to save and rescue. So we pray with the psalmist: “We, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.”

## 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: O King of Glory, Send Forth Your Spirit We Pray!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Philippians 1:21**

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**Psalm 79 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; through 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	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 7:</b> The Coming Persecution—John 15:26—16:4	
Monday	<b>Memorial Day:</b> Luke 13:1-9	Romans 8:31-39
Tuesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Wednesday	Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Thursday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Psalm 68:18-20, 32-35
Friday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:36-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9
Saturday	Pentecost: The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21

### The Catechism: To Widows; To Everyone

What does God’s Word say to widows? The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:5
What does God’s Word say to everyone? The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”	First Grade + Romans 13:9
I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1

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

### **Prayer for Widows**

Heavenly Father, comfort all widows who have lost their husbands and are left all alone. Give them strength and courage to put their hope in You and to cry out to You for help night and day. In their loneliness and sorrow, draw them closer to Your Divine Services and deliver them from the temptation to seek fulfillment from the pleasures of life that can never truly satisfy. Teach them to believe that they have a sacred calling as widows to live by faith in the greater Bridegroom, who has laid down His life for His bride and in whom alone are pleasures forevermore, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Widowers**

Heavenly Father, comfort all widowers who have lost their wives and are left without a spouse to love. Deliver them from self-centeredness and despair. Give them the strength to flee from fornication and every form of sexual immorality. Fill the void in their lives with the Gospel of Your Son and the study of Your Word. Teach them to pray to You for help to live in their calling, to serve their neighbors in love, and to commend their future to Your gracious will. Grant them Your grace to remain single, or provide them with a faithful Christian wife; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Everyone**

O Lord, as You have loved us in place of Yourself and thereby fulfilled all of God's Law on our behalf, teach us to walk by faith in Your love in all that we do, to live in love and self-sacrifice toward others in our callings, and to pray for everyone in need, seeking not our own glory but the welfare and salvation of our neighbor; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Autumn Walentoski (5/23), Andrew Bender, John David (5/24), Cheryl Piper (5/28).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Matthew and Betty Voss (5/26), Frank and Rosie Kopting, Jody and Rebecca Ligrow (5/28).

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

**Those who travel:** Kirstin Franklin, traveling to and working in Texas for the summer as a nurse and Medical Coordinator.

**The sick:** Roger Laubenstein, recovering from a blood infection and receiving cancer treatment;

Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS;

Walter Schmudlach, with an inoperable tumor;

Pat Murphy suffering with severe back pain;

Carl Duwe recovering from hip surgery after a fall.

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

### **Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi**

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him 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**

**"See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" (stanzas 1 and 4)**

**LSB 494**

### **Looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost**

**May 31, 2020**

**Hymns:** 689, 497, 498, 693

**Genesis 11:1-9:** At the Tower of Babel man's speech was confused by God because of the idolatry of man's heart. On Pentecost all confusion, disorder, envy, and pride is put to flight as the one Gospel of God's grace and salvation in Christ is proclaimed in many languages and to many peoples. The word of the Gospel restores the peace and harmony that was lost at Babel.

**Acts 2:1-21:** The evangelist St. Luke records the signs and events of the first Pentecost. 50 days after Easter and 10 days after our Lord's ascension, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles so that they would be enabled to remember what Jesus had taught them and faithfully preach His Word for the repentance and salvation of sinners.

**John 14:23-31:** We have fellowship with the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus and the Word of the Gospel. True faith loves Christ and all that He says. Love for Christ and His Word receives strength from the Word. Just as the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles to bring to their remembrance everything that Jesus had taught them, so Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit is the Father's gift to us through His Word. By the Word of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to us, imparting to us Jesus' peace—the peace of sins forgiven, peace with God, and the peace of a conscience that is free from guilt and the Law's threat of punishment. All this Jesus promises us when He says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep [believe, trust, and depend upon] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."