

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*For the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter / Misericordias Domini*

*April 18 through April 25, 2021*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 114—A Meditation on the Exodus out of Egypt—***The Exodus of the children of Israel out of Egypt and the Lord’s faithfulness to them in providing for them in the wilderness is a paradigm for how He has given salvation to His Church and continues to provide for us today. Unbelievers have a “strange language” that conflicts with the language of faith and trust in the Lord. We need to immerse ourselves in God’s Word through which He makes His sanctuary and dwelling place among us. As His Word caused the Red Sea to part, turned back the waters of the Jordan River, and faithfully led them throughout their pilgrimage, so the Lord is present and leading us wherever the Gospel is faithfully taught, and the Sacraments of Christ are faithfully administered. Psalm 114 extols the presence of the Lord with His people. Though the unbelieving nations don’t recognize His presence among us, His presence nevertheless terrifies them and causes them to tremble. Jesus is the rock of our salvation! He is present with His Church for our protection and deliverance. He gives us to drink of the water of life, so that we never thirst again. Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

## **The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

*Pray and confess 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: I AM the Good Shepherd and Redeemer of My Flock!**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles’ Creed**

**Verse: Romans 8:31b-32**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?  
<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son,  
 but delivered Him up for us all,  
 how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

**Psalm 114 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** *O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You that You have redeemed us with Your holy precious blood and with Your innocent suffering and death to be Your special people. Be present with us as You have promised. Deliver us from every enemy of the Gospel. Bless our meditation and study of Your Word that we might ever drink in the water of eternal life and salvation that You so freely give; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	136, 117

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>Jesus, the Good Shepherd—John 10:11-16</b>	
Monday	Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14	1 Peter 1:3-12
Tuesday	Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25	1 Peter 5:1-11
Wednesday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Captured—1 Samuel 3:21—4:18 (19-22)	Philippians 4:10-23
Thursday	The Ark Brings Judgment upon the Philistines—1 Samuel 5:1—6:1	Colossians 1:1-8
Friday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Returned to Israel—1 Samuel 6:1—7:1	Colossians 1:9-18
Saturday	To Whom Will You Liken the Lord—Isaiah 40:25-31	1 Peter 2:11-20

### **The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Husbands**

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

<p><i>What does God’s Word say to husbands?</i>                      Husbands,                      in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives,                      and treat them with respect as the weaker partner                      and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life,                      so that nothing will hinder your prayers.</p>	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:7
<p>Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.</p>	First Grade + Colossians 3:19

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

### Prayer for Husbands

O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion the men of Your Church into husbands made in Your image, who love their wives and sacrifice themselves for them, even as You gave Yourself for us, Your bride the Church. Teach them to respect their wives and to treat them with tenderness, compassion, and lovingkindness. Deliver them from all pride and arrogance so that they do not take advantage of their wives but honor them as joint heirs of the gracious gift of life. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

### For the Increase of the Holy Ministry

Almighty and gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have commanded us to pray that You would send forth laborers into Your harvest. Of Your infinite mercy give us true teachers and ministers of Your Word who truly fulfill Your command and preach nothing contrary to Your holy Word. Grant that we, being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted, and strengthened by Your holy Word, may do those things which are well pleasing to You and profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, You led Your holy apostles to ordain pastors in every place. Grant that Your flock, under the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, may choose suitable men for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and may uphold them in their work for the extension of Your kingdom; through Him who is the chief Shepherd of our souls, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### In Our Prayers this Week

**Office of the Ministry:** Our synod's vicarage assignment and call services at our seminaries the last week of April, including seminarian James Kirk who will receive his vicarage assignment.

Our own congregation as we discuss and deliberate on calling an ordained Headmaster and Associate Pastor

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Alex Carus, Landon Carus (4/18), Bennet Kütemeier (4/20), Christine Hardenbrook, Mike Clark (4/21), Jim Frerking, Jason Hoffmann, Rev. Gary Gehlbach 4/23), John Thoni, Lyle Wollin (4/24).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bob and Sandy Elmer (4/24).

**The sick:** Kurt Ruhnau, Marcy Gall, Bernice Lemke, and Jim Weber recovering from recent hospitalizations; Gabby Hartwig hospitalized at Children's; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

**Cancer treatment:** Rev. Timothy Kinne for multiple myeloma; Erwin Cabrera and Tom Pinzl for bladder cancer; Jim Nitzsche for Lung Cancer, Fr. Wokoma's daughter and Jill Franklin for breast cancer, Allison Witte

**Hospice:** Roger Laubenstein

### Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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

“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (stanza 1)

483

#### Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday of Easter/ Jubilate

April 25, 2021

Hymns: 465, 756, 684, 699, 483, 818

**Isaiah 40:25-31:** “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (vs. 31). This word of God from the prophet Isaiah echoes the confession of the Apostle Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Both these passages underscore the comforting truth that the Christian's strength to be a Christian and to live faithfully and joyously in the freedom of the Gospel comes entirely from the Lord.

**1 Peter 2:11-20:** Peter tells us to “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.” This admonition reminds us that the desires and appetites of the flesh are at enmity with faith. Just as faith is turned outward to Christ and finds its sufficiency in Him, so the flesh has a faith of its own which turns inward to every self-centered desire. Contrition and repentance, confession and absolution are our weapons against the fleshly lusts and the means by which we learn to abstain from them for the sake of our soul's salvation.

**John 16:16-22:** Jesus describes His suffering and death as “a little while.” During this “little while” He goes to the Father to offer His lifeblood into death for our sins. This “little while” was filled with great grief for the disciples, but their sorrow was turned to joy in His resurrection from the dead. From this “little while” we learn what is characteristic for us and the Church in this world. The “little while” of Christ's suffering and the lamentation of the disciples corresponds to the “little while” of the Church's and every individual Christian's suffering because of sin and persecution. Nevertheless, this “little while” is short-lived. Our Lord is not only risen from the dead, but He comes to us with His grace and forgiveness to turn our sorrow into joy. There is joy in the Christian life now. We do not have to wait for it until the resurrection on the last day. It is a joy in the midst of the cross of affliction.