

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti
April 11 through April 18, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 113—A Prayer of Continual Praise of the Lord—*The Lord alone is God, and He is the eternal Savior of all who trust in Him. For this reason, the Church, together with all her ministers and members, gives endless praise to Him “from this time forth and forevermore!” Singing songs of praise to the Lord is healthy spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. The Lord’s song of praise lifts our spirits to eternal truths, restores our relationship of confidence in the Lord, and gives us the optimism of Christ’s free gift of salvation. The assertions of Psalm 113 are comforting and uplifting to the soul of every Christian: “The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high, who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor out of the dust and lifts the needy out of the ash heap... He grants the barren woman a home, like a joyful mother of children. Praise 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: Faith in Christ’s Forgiveness Overcomes the Evil of the World.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Psalm 113 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: *Hallelujah! You, O LORD, are worthy of praise, from this day forth and forevermore, because You have come to us poor and needy to rescue us from our sins and raise us to the heights of eternal life and salvation with You. Teach us ever to sing Your praises that we might ever abide in the confidence of Your love and the joy of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Lord Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31	
Monday	The Resurrection—Mark 16:1-8	Job 19:23-27
Tuesday	The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-27	Acts 10:34-43
Wednesday	Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35	Acts 13:26-33
Thursday	Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49	Acts 3:11-21
Friday	Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1—2:2
Saturday	I Will Search for My Sheep—Ezekiel 34:11-16	1 Peter 2:21-25

The Catechism: Table of Duties—Of Citizens

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

<i>What does God’s Word say of citizens? Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.</i>	First Grade + Matthew 22:21
<i>It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.</i>	<u>Third</u> Grade + Romans 13:5-7
<i>I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.</i>	<u>Second</u> Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.	<u>First Grade +</u> Titus 3:1
Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.	<u>Fourth Grade +</u> 1 Peter 2:13-14

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

Prayer of a Christian Citizen

Merciful Father, grant us faith to pray for the civil authorities and to trust that You will accomplish Your good and gracious will through them. Teach us to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness and to be ready to do whatever is good in service to others in our community and nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Jennifer Scheler (4/11), Grayson Palmer (4/12), Heide Schaff, Benjamin Anderson, Judith Woehrmann (4/13), Savannah LaFore, Sarah May (4/15), Steven Haga, Larry Haga (4/16); Shirley Weber (4/17).

Wedding Anniversaries: Wally and Mary Schneider (4/14).

90th Birthday – Ed Lemke (4-10-31)

The sick: Gabby Hartwig, hospitalized at Children's; Carol Bender recovering from a fall; Kurt Ruhbau, hospitalized again with an infection and blood clots after heart bypass surgery; Deacon Matthew Gatchell, recovering from sinus surgery; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Cancer treatment: Rev. Timothy Kinne, beginning treatment for multiple myeloma; Erwin Cabrera, son-in-law of Carol Bender, receiving treatment for bladder cancer; Tom Brass, friend of Bob and Geri Zaretzke; Dwayne Bira, brother-in-law of Dave Aumann; Tom Pinzl, Jim Nitzsche, Brian Nienabor, Jill Franklin, Allison Witte, and Roger Laubenstein.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (stanzas 1, 4 and 5)

458

Looking forward to the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini

April 18, 2021

Hymns: 463, 719, 625, 709, 473, 692

Ezekiel 34:11-16: *The seeking Shepherd is a vivid description of the ministry of our Lord in both His death and the ongoing proclamation of His Word. Throughout this prophecy, the Lord indicates how HE will take the initiative to seek out and save His lost sheep: "I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out... I seek out My sheep... I will bring them out... I will feed them... I will feed My flock... I will make them lie down... I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick..."*

1 Peter 2:21-25: *The "example" or pattern of Christ's sufferings is that He committed Himself to the Father who judges righteously. This week's reading from Peter's first epistle is the climax of this section in which he catechizes us concerning Christian vocation. All offices that Christians might hold take their cue from Jesus' example of submission to the Father's will to lay down His life for the unworthy and undeserving. The true heart of Christian vocation is the call to live by faith in God's mercy in Christ. It is through His mercy and grace that we are drawn back to Him who is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.*

John 10:11-16: *Jesus said, "I lay down My life for the sheep." These words are spoken in the context of explaining that a hireling does not care for the sheep as the Good Shepherd does, but rather flees when he sees the wolf coming. The wolf is Satan. He attacks us by using our sin against us. We have no defense in ourselves. But we have a Good Shepherd. He stood up to the devil by laying down His life on our behalf. The devil was out for blood. He demanded that blood be shed because of sin. Jesus was the only One who could make atonement for our sin. He loved us to the point of laying down His life for us that we might be rescued from Satan and the condemnation of hell. The flock of Christ is kept safe solely by the forgiveness of sins which is ours in the Good Shepherd. The ministry of every pastor is to be patterned after the ministry of our Lord. As He loved us and laid down His life for our forgiveness, so pastors are to love their flocks and lay down their lives, so to speak, for the cause of proclaiming that Word of forgiveness that sets them free.*