

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate  
May 2 through May 9, 2021*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 116 —The Lord Loves Me and Hears My Prayers** — “I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications...Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.” Psalm 116 begins with the confident and comforting assertion that the Lord hears our prayers. When we are troubled by our sins, He hears. When we are surrounded by trouble and adversity, He hears. When the pains of death threaten us, He hears. This psalm echoes the words of the Apostle John, “We love Him, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19), and His ears are open to every cry, complaint, and need of the Christian. This is why we love Him. Our Lord has died for us, shed His blood for us, forgives us, protects us, upholds us, defends us, and never fails us. So, the psalmist confesses, “Gracious is the Lord...I was brought low, and He saved me...You have delivered my soul from death...I will call upon the name of the Lord.” The faithfulness of the Lord is what draws us to the Divine Service to receive the blessing of His Word and Supper. “What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.” Psalm 116 also speaks of the inevitable death of the Christian but does so in the confidence that when the Christian leaves this world he is with the Lord and will forever praise Him for His love and faithfulness. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” Confirmation vows of lifelong faithfulness to the Lord rest upon His eternal faithfulness to us.

## 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: The Spirit of Truth Will Guide You into All Truth!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

#### Verse: Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord,  
“Sit at My right hand,  
till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

#### Psalm 116 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, I love You because You love Me, and Your ears are always open to my prayers. Teach me to call upon You as long as I live and in every time of need. When the pain of death surrounds me, deliver my soul. I am Your servant, grant me faithfulness to You all the days of my life; in Your holy name, I pray. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15</b>	
Monday	Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead—1 Samuel 11:1-15	Colossians 3:12-17
Tuesday	Samuel's Address at Saul's Coronation—1 Samuel 12:1 (2-13) 14-25	Col. 3:18—4:1
Wednesday	Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice—1 Samuel 13:1-14	Colossians 4:2-18
Thursday	Saul's Wars and His Unfaithfulness—1 Samuel 14:52—15:9	1 John 1:1—2:2
Friday	Saul Is Rejected by the Lord—1 Samuel 15:10-35	1 John 2:3-14
Saturday	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:4-9	1 Timothy 2:1-6

### The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Parents and Children

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

<p>What does God's Word say to parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:4</p>
<p>What does God's Word say to children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”</p>	<p>First Grade + Ephesians 6:1 Second Grade + Ephesians 6:2-3</p>

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

**Prayer for Parents**

Heavenly Father, You have given us the gift of children who are to be brought up in the training and instruction of the Gospel of Your Son. Give to all Christian fathers and mothers the strength and will to teach the Word of God to their children, and to see this responsibility as their most important duty. Deliver them from the temptation to abandon their sacred trust. Grant them faithfulness in their calling as parents, that they might love and care for their children even as You love and care for them in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer for Children**

Heavenly Father, grant Your grace in Christ to all Christian children that they might honor their parents in spite of their failings, and enjoy a long and blessed life according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Andrew Stauber, Mark Thoni (5/2), Corey Venkitaswaran (5/5).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Larry and Cathy Drahos (5/4), Jack and Debra Christopherson (5/5), Jim and Kathy Miller (5/8).

**Thanksgiving:** Carol Bender, Marcy Gall, and Bernice Lemke for recovery from hospitalizations and treatment.

**The sick:** Paul Schneider having cardiac catheterization this week; David Steinhilb undergoing cardiac testing; Paul Kowalczyk, Melody Ruhbusch's brother-in-law, recovering from a stroke; Shirley Weber, Kurt Ruhnau, and Jim Weber recovering from recent hospitalizations; Barb Lavann, mother of Cheryl Gretzinger, in ICU at Waukesha Memorial Hospital recuperating from complications after back surgery; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

**Cancer treatment:** Gabby Hartwig in treatment for childhood cancer; Rev. Timothy Kinne for multiple myeloma; Erwin Cabrera and Tom Pinzl for bladder cancer; Jim Nitzsche for lung cancer; Fr. Wokoma's daughter, Aburuyeba Amaso, and Jill Franklin for breast cancer; and Alison Witte.

**Hospice:** Roger Laubenstein.

**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**

**"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (stanzas 1-2)**

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

**May 9, 2021**

**Hymns: 837, 773, 772, 766, 918**

**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.

**I 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."