

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate
May 9 through May 16, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 117 — A Fervent Missionary Psalm – Psalm 117 is a brief and fervent prayer for the conversion of the nations to faith in Christ. The call, “Oh, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, Laud Him, all you peoples!” is really a call to faith. The highest praise of the Lord is to confess Him to be our Savior and to flee to Him in repentant faith. The baptized faithful, together with the whole Church on earth, yearn for others to join them in praise of the Lord, “For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.” How lovely it is to contemplate that the conversion of sinners results in the praise of God for His merciful kindness in Christ for all people.

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: Pray Without Ceasing!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

**For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God,
not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

Psalm 117 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32
Evening	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Whatever You Ask the Father in My Name—John 16:23-33	
Monday	David Is Anointed King—1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 John 2:15-27
Tuesday	David Plays the Harp for Saul—1 Samuel 16:14-23	1 John 2:28—3:9
Wednesday	The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20	Daniel 7:9-14
Thursday	The Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20	Joshua 1:1-9
Friday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Genesis 22:1-19
Saturday	The Nations Will Know the Lord—Ezekiel 36:22-28	1 Peter 4:7-14

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Workers of All Kinds

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

<p><i>What does God’s Word say to workers of all kinds?</i> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.</p>	<p>First Grade + Ephesians 6:5</p>
<p>Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.</p>	<p>Second Grade + Ephesians 6:6</p>
<p>Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:7</p>
<p>because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade + Ephesians 6:8</p>

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

Prayer for Workers of All Kinds

Heavenly Father, Your Son became a slave for us to redeem us from all sin. He worked for our salvation, though we did not deserve it, and He submitted to Your will with all His heart. Forgive us all dishonor and disrespect toward our earthly masters, and grant us the grace of Your Son that we might serve in our life's work with faithfulness toward You and in love and obedience for those we are called to serve, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Sharon Murphy, Christine Haga (5/9), David Haga (5/10), Pat Pom (5/11), Hannah Ligrow, Rev. Peter Bender (5/12), Gabrielle Hartwig, Rev. Wolf Knappe (5/14), Doris Erickson (5/15).

Wedding Anniversaries: Doug and Pat Pom (5/9), Rev. Matthew and Amy Uttenreither (5/10), Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15).

The sick: Luise Bollmeyer, receiving treatment for an infection in her leg and compression fractures in her back, Paul Schneider undergoing had cardiac testing and further treatment; David Steinhilb undergoing cardiac testing; Paul Kowalczyk, Melody Ruhbusch's brother-in-law, recovering from a stroke; Barb Lavann, mother of Cheryl Gretzinger, in 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, Jill Franklin for breast cancer; and Alison Witte.

Hospice: Roger Laubenstein.

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.

Collect for the Ascension of Our Lord (May 13)

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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

"Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" (stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter / Exaudi

May 16, 2021

Hymns: 667, 539, 665, 666, 479, 492

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.