

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi  
May 16 through May 23, 2021*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 118:1-14 — A Prayer of Rejoicing in the Confidence of Faith—Psalm 118** was prayed regularly as part of the Passover celebration. It contains the call to rejoice and give thanks for the Lord's salvation of His people. It has both a corporate and individual dimension to it. The basis for the congregation's celebration and that of every individual Christian is mercy. "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! Because His mercy endures forever." The enduring mercy and faithfulness of the Lord is the only reason that Israel was redeemed from countless occasions of rebellion, and it is only the enduring mercy and grace of God that sustains and comforts us as individual Christians. So Psalm 118 begins with the call to the entire congregation of Israel to confess the mercy of God and then leads into a personal confession for every believer: "I called on the Lord in distress; The Lord answered me...The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?... It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes." The first half of the psalm concludes with comforting assertion: "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation."

## **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: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

#### **Verse: Revelation 21:4**

**God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.  
There shall be no more pain,  
for the former things have passed away.**

#### **Psalm 118:1-14 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49
Evening	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50

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

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>The Coming of Persecution—John 15:26—16:4</b>	
Monday	Goliath the Philistine Giant—1 Samuel 17:1-19	1 John 3:10-24
Tuesday	David Journeys to the Battlefield—1 Samuel 17:20-37	1 John 4:1-11
Wednesday	David Kills Goliath—1 Samuel 17:32, 37-54	1 John 4:12-21
Thursday	Saul Resents David—1 Samuel 17:55—18:16	1 John 5:1-13
Friday	David Marries Michal—1 Samuel 18:17-29	1 John 5:14-21
Saturday	The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21

### **The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Employers and Supervisors; To Youth**

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

<p><i>What does God's Word say to employers and supervisors?</i> Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:9</p>
<p><i>What does God's Word say to youth?</i> Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Peter 5:5</p>
<p>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Peter 5:6</p>

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

**Prayer for Employers and Supervisors**

Gracious Lord, You have given us great responsibilities and authority as employers and supervisors of others. Teach us by Your grace and mercy to treat our workers and those who are under us with respect, understanding, and compassion. Give us a humble spirit toward them and help us to see our workers as gifts of God who depend upon us for their livelihood and who enable us to be of greater service to others for whom we perform our life's work; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for Youth**

O Lord, as You in humility and faith submitted Yourself to Mary and Joseph and to every authority instituted among men for our salvation, teach us to submit to our elders and to believe that You will accomplish Your good purposes in our lives and in the lives of others through such honor and respect; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

**In Our Prayers this Week**

**The Office of the Ministry:** The Lord's guidance and blessing on calling an ordained Headmaster/Associate Pastor.

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Kevin Larson (5/16), John Lehman, Hannah Hardenbrook, Ed Lemke, Jason Petersen (5/17), Jacob Weber (5/19), Bob Corso (5/20), Peter Greschner (5/21).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Paul and Jennifer Johnson (5/18), Jeff and Ali Meehan (5/20), Mark and Julie Goltermann (5/22).

**The sick:** Frank Koplring having abdominal surgery; Pat Murphy having surgery to remove a kidney stone; Luise Bollmeyer, receiving treatment for an infection in her leg and compression fractures in her back; David Steinhilb undergoing cardioversion; Barb Lavann, mother of Cheryl Gretzinger, recuperating from a second back surgery; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

**Cancer treatment:** Gabby Hartwig who will have surgery on Monday as part of 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.

**Those Who Mourn:** family of Roger Laubenstein who mourn his death.

**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**

**"Christ Is the World's Redeemer" (stanza 1)**

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**Looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost**

**May 23, 2021**

**Hymns: 499, 497, 496, 617, 500, 689**

**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:** St. Luke's account of the Day of Pentecost records the signs associated with the Spirit being poured out upon the Apostles. The sound of rushing wind was a sign that the Holy Spirit was given for the sake of the preaching of the Gospel and that the Spirit blows like the wind, converting to faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel. The tongues of fire upon their heads designated these men to be the chosen and authoritative witnesses of Jesus. The Church is bound to their Word because the Apostolic Doctrine comes from the Holy Spirit. The ability to speak in foreign languages is a sign that the Gospel is for all people, of every race, tribe, nation, and language. Jonah's prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Spirit in the last days describes the entire period of the Church's life from the time of the Apostles to the Second Coming of Christ. During this period, the Holy Spirit is poured out through preaching. This preaching creates both the faith that calls upon the Lord for salvation and the hope of the glorious resurrection of the body to eternal life.

**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."