

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Feast of the Resurrection
April 9 through April 16, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Holy Spirit and the Resurrection of Our Lord — During this week of the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we also meditate upon the Third Article of the Creed. It is the Holy Spirit who brings Jesus' victory over death to us through the sweet message of the forgiveness of sins. By this Word, sins are forgiven, faith is created, and we are raised up by the Spirit of God to walk in newness of life. Jesus gave up the Holy Spirit when He died upon the cross and in the upper room He breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples when He said, "Peace be with You!" The message of Jesus' peace and forgiveness is the message of the Holy Spirit by which we are continually renewed in faith and life. This same Holy Spirit will raise us from the dead, with Jesus, on the Last Day. By the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Word and Sacraments of Christ we will forever enjoy the resurrection of the body and the life-everlasting.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out 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: Christ Has Swallowed Up Death Forever!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 11:25-26a

I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me,
though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Psalm 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, You received the atoning sacrifice of Your Son for the sins of the whole world and, therefore, raised Him from the dead to bring salvation to us all. Grant that as He fixed His eyes upon Your good and gracious will for us, so may we forever fix our eyes upon Him. As You did not abandon His soul to Sheol, neither will You abandon us or allow us to see the corruption of eternal death. Preserve us in the hope of the resurrection and grant us the confidence of faith that we may never be shaken by sin and death, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord: John 20:1-18	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Monday	Easter Monday: The Emmaus' Disciples—Luke 24:13-35	1 Peter 1:17-25
Tuesday	Easter Tuesday: The Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:36-49	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Wednesday	Easter Wednesday: The Resurrection Catch—John 21:1-14	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Thursday	Jesus Reinstates Peter—John 21:15-25	Colossians 3:1-7
Friday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-18	1 Corinthians 15:12-25
Saturday	Easter 2: The Valley of the Dry Bones—Ezekiel 37:1-14	1 John 5:4-10

The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	First Grade +
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Resurrection of Our Lord:

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Easter Monday

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your People that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; 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 Easter Tuesday

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Easter Wednesday

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

Confirmations: Rebecca Gierach and Cheryll Thompson at the Easter Vigil.

Baptismal Anniversaries: Nicola Giordano (4/9), Jennifer Scheler (4/11), Grayson Palmer (4/12), Heide Schaff, Judy Woehrmann (4/13), Grace Palmer, Sarah May, Savannah LaFore (4/15).

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

The Sick: Michael Chen (father of Nicola Giordano); Jan Wollin rehospitalized with heart problems; Mark Gretzinger medical testing for undiagnosed medical issues; Dawn Fredrich recovering from surgery; Dennis Michaelis, Gabby Hartwig, Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, and Heather Peters in cancer treatment.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

"Christ Is Arisen"

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<p>Looking forward to the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti</p> <p>Hymns: 471, 602, 639, 483, 741, 484</p> <p>Ezekiel 37:1-14: "Dry bones" are bones with no life in them. The prophet Ezekiel proclaims the Word of the Lord. The Word of the Lord breathes life into "dry bones" because it is the Word of forgiveness. The resurrection of the body is the concrete manifestation of the forgiveness of sins that Jesus earned for us in His death.</p> <p>1 John 5:4-10: What is the victory that overcomes the world? Faith in Christ overcomes the world, along with all the sin, temptation, and death in our lives with which we daily contend. If we look for our certainty by looking at whether or not we have always overcome temptation in our lives, we will never have certainty. Certainty comes by a faith which lays hold of Christ Jesus alone in His holy Word and sacraments.</p> <p>John 20:19-31: It is in Jesus' first resurrection appearance in the upper room that He ordained His disciples "apostles" saying, "Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." As Jesus spoke these words He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." The promise of the Holy Spirit is given to every minister of the Gospel in so far as he is faithful to the Word of Christ. Wherever Jesus' Word is preached, there is the Spirit of God "working faith when and where He pleases," forgiving the sins of repentant sinners and withholding forgiveness from the unrepentant. The purpose of the Apostolic Word is defined by John in his Gospel: "these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (vs.31).</p>	<p>April 16, 2023</p>
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