

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti  
 April 16 through April 23, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Associating with Sinners—The Ministry of Absolution—**The ministry of private absolution is retained in the church because of God's passion to save the lost sinner. The baptized Christian still “daily sins much and deserves nothing but God's wrath and punishment.” The devil, the world, and the Christian’s own sinful nature wage an incessant war against faith in Christ. Holy Absolution is spoken that the Christian's faith in Christ might be restored and that his conscience might be comforted and strengthened against these attacks. Faith lives from the word of the Gospel. How wonderful it is that Christ's absolution comes to us sinners in many ways: Holy Baptism, the preaching of the Gospel to the congregation in the Divine Service, ongoing catechesis, the Lord’s Supper, and even the comforting words of the Gospel spoken to us by our brothers and sisters in Christ. But it is also offered to us in the consolation our pastor is called to give us privately: Holy Absolution. Private absolution is a sermon of the sweetest Gospel for the individual sinner applied to the sinner’s specific need. Like our Lord who received sinners and ate with them, the Lutheran pastor is called by God to associate with the members of his flock who are tormented by the weaknesses of their sinful nature and plagued by a bad conscience. He is called to believe that he has no greater work than to offer the comfort of Holy Absolution. (Luth. Cat. p. 201)

## 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: Peace Be with You! Your Sins Are Forgiven!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 10:32-33

Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.  
 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Psalm 33:12-22 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** We give thanks and praise to You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for Your Word is true and by Your Word You have created and sustain all things. You love righteousness and the earth is full of Your goodness in the preaching of the Gospel of Your Son. Grant us ever to trust in Your Word with all our heart and to sing the new song of salvation. Our soul waits for You in every trouble. You are our help and our shield. Let Your mercy be upon us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	89
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	90

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 2:</b> The Lord Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31	
Monday	The Resurrection—Matthew 28:1-15	Exodus 15:1-18
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	Easter 3: Ezekiel 34:11-16	1 Peter 2:21-25

### The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Husbands

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the seventh through eighth commandments.)

What does God's Word say to husbands?

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

First Grade +  
 1 Peter 3:7

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

O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion the men of Your Church into husbands made in Your image, who love their wives and sacrifice themselves for them, even as You gave Yourself for us, Your bride the Church. Teach them to respect their wives and to treat them with tenderness, compassion, and lovingkindness. Deliver them from all pride and arrogance so that they do not take advantage of their wives but honor them as joint heirs of the gracious gift of life. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer for Home and Family**

Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**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.

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

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Tyler Haga, Steven Haga (4/16), Shirley Weber (4/17), Landon Carus (4/18), Bennett Kütemeier (4/20), Mike Clark (4/21).

**Thanksgiving:** Jamilyn Martin (friend of Megan Braunschweig) in remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma.

**The Sick:** Walt Dissen hospitalized; Tanya Knoblock (niece of Paul Kachelmeyer) recovering from cancer surgery; Kathleen Hetzel (aunt of Megan Braunschweig) undergoing testing for cancer; Mary McMiller recovering from knee surgery; Jan Wollin in rehab; Mark Gretzinger medical testing for undiagnosed medical issues; Dawn Fredrich recovering from surgery; Dennis Michaelis, Gabby Hartwig, Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, and Heather Peters in cancer treatment.

**Those Who Mourn:** Kurt Williams (friend of Christine Franklin), killed in small plane accident.

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.****Hymn of the Week****"O Sons and Daughters of the King" (stanzas 1, 6, and 8)**

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**Looking forward to the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini**

April 23, 2023

**Hymns: 692, 709, 864, 641, 531, 740**

**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.