

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini  
 April 23 through April 30, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Jesus’ Encouraging Catechesis** — Our Eastertide Bible readings in the Congregation at Prayer offer to us the comforting and encouraging words of Jesus to the disciples in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday. In these readings He prepares them for their future ministry as His apostles and offers comfort to Christians and the Church of every age as we face hardship and persecution for confessing Christ. Many of these words we know by heart: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me...I am the way, the truth, and the life...I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper...even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love Him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (Selections are from John 14). By the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the resurrection Gospel of Jesus’ peace and forgiveness is delivered to us. We are comforted and strengthened to remain faithful in our witness to Him who has given His life for us. By the testimony of the Spirit of Truth we have the assurance that we belong to Christ.

## 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: Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

### 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 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love You laid down Your life for us Your sheep. We give You praise and glory for Your unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You through the valley of the shadow of death. Deliver us from all our foes until Your whole flock shall be gathered about You in the resurrection on the last day, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105
Evening	90	93	94	97	99	102	104	106

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 3:</b> “I Am the Good Shepherd”—John 10:11-16	
Monday	The Way the Truth and the Life—John 14:1-6	Isaiah 45:15-21
Tuesday	<b>St. Mark, Evangelist:</b> Mark 16:14-20	2 Timothy 4:5-18
Wednesday	I Am in the Father and the Father in Me—John 14:7-11	Isaiah 45:22-25
Thursday	If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments—John 14:12-18	Isaiah 48:12-21
Friday	Fellowship with the Holy Trinity—John 14:19-26	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Saturday	Easter 4: The Lord Does Not Faint—Isaiah 40:25-31	1 Peter 2:11-20

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

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

What does God’s Word say of wives? Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.	Third Grade + Ephesians 5:22
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[This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.]  
They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

First Grade +  
1 Peter 3:5-6

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

**Prayer for Wives**

*O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion all Christian women into wives made in the image of Your bride the Church. Teach them to submit to their husbands as to You, their Lord and Savior. Give them hearts that trust in Your Word, honor their husbands, and look to them for love and spiritual headship. Deliver them from all fear and faithlessness. Where their husbands fail them, support them with Your grace and let them find their sufficiency in You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

**Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini**

*O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Collect for Saint Mark, Evangelist (April 25)**

*Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; 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 (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Jim Frerking, Rev. Gary Gehlbach, Jason Hoffmann (4/23), Lyle Wollin, John Thoni, Kevin Ruele (4/24), Joe Schneider, Fritz Theilacker (4/25), Mary Heise, David Uttenreither (4/27), Matthew Fabrizio (4/28), Rachel Frerking (4/29).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bob and Sandra Elmer (4/24), Pat and Sharon Murphy (4/25), Mark and Holly Schneider, Eric and Kayla Kütemeier (4/26), Mike and Angie Clark (4/29).

**Call Candidates at our Seminaries:** James Kirk (son of Pam & Randy Kirk).

**The Sick:** Richard (friend of Steve & Sandy Lueck) who suffered a brain injury after a fall and is hospitalized; Walt Dissen hospitalized; Dawn Fredrich recovering from surgery; Jan Wollin in rehab; Mark Gretzinger medical testing for undiagnosed medical issues; Kathleen Hetzel (aunt of Megan Braunschweig) undergoing testing for cancer; Tanya Knoblock, Dennis Michaelis, Gabby Hartwig, Mike Ferguson, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, and Heather Peters in cancer treatment.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death" (stanzas 1-2)**

**486**

**Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate**

**April 30, 2023**

**Hymns: 684, 461, 620, 756, 685, 479**

**Isaiah 40:25-31:** "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (vs. 31). This word of God from the prophet Isaiah echoes the confession of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Both these passages underscore the comforting truth that the Christian's strength to be a Christian and to live faithfully and joyously in the freedom of the Gospel comes entirely from the Lord.

**1 Peter 2:11-20:** Peter tells us to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." This admonition reminds us that the desires and appetites of the flesh are at enmity with faith. Just as faith is turned outward to Christ and finds its sufficiency in Him, so the flesh has a faith of its own which turns inward to every self-centered desire. Contrition and repentance, confession and absolution are our weapons against the fleshly lusts and the means by which we learn to abstain from them for the sake of our soul's salvation.

**John 16:16-22:** Jesus describes His suffering and death as "a little while." During this "little while" He goes to the Father to offer His lifeblood into death for our sins. This "little while" was filled with great grief for the disciples, but their sorrow was turned to joy in His resurrection from the dead. From this "little while" we learn what is characteristic for us and the Church in this world. The "little while" of Christ's suffering and the lamentation of the disciples corresponds to the "little while" of the Church's and every individual Christian's suffering because of sin and persecution. Nevertheless, this "little while" is short-lived. Our Lord is not only risen from the dead, but He comes to us with His grace and forgiveness to turn our sorrow into joy. There is joy in the Christian life now. We do not have to wait for it until the resurrection on the last day. It is a joy in the midst of the cross of affliction.