

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate
April 30 through May 7, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — St. Philip and St. James, Apostles: This week we celebrate the feast of St. Philip and St. James Apostles. “St. Philip is mentioned in the lists of the apostles (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13), but only in John’s Gospel is more told about him. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee and one of the first disciples called after Peter and Andrew. Philip also was instrumental in bringing Nathanael to Jesus (John 1:43-51). It was to Philip that Jesus posed the question about where to buy bread to feed five thousand men (John 6:5). During Holy Week, Philip with Andrew brought some inquiring Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-22). And on Maundy Thursday evening, Philip asked Jesus to show the Father to him and to the rest of the disciples (John 14:8). According to tradition, Philip went to labor in Phrygia and was buried there. St. James was a son of Alphaeus and was also called “the Younger” (to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee, “the Elder,” whose festival day is July 25). His mother Mary was one of the faithful women who stood at the cross of Jesus (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40). James is mentioned in the same apostolic lists as Philip, but there is no other mention of him in the New Testament. There is also no information regarding his field of labor or the circumstances of his death, except that he may have been martyred by being sawed in two.” (Treasury of Daily Prayer).

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: In a Little While, Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction;
for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Psalm 147:1-11 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, by Your Word You have created all things and by Your Word You heal the wounds of sin and bind up our broken hearts, grant us to fear You above all things and to hope in Your steadfast love and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72
Evening	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 4: “Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy”—John 16:16-22	
Monday	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles: John 14:1-14	Ephesians 2:19-22
Tuesday	The Peace of Christ—John 14:27-31	Isaiah 26:1-12
Wednesday	I am the Vine—John 15:1-8	Jer. 9:23-24; 10:11-16
Thursday	As the Father Loved Me, I also Have Loved You—John 15:9-17	Jeremiah 31:2-9
Friday	The World’s Hatred—John 15:18-25	Psalm 9
Saturday	The Comforter in Persecution—John 15:26—16:4	Isaiah 59:17-21

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Parents and Children

(Preschool children and everyone, review the Ninth and Tenth Commandments)

What does God’s Word say to parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:4
What does God’s Word say to children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”	First Grade + Ephesians 6:1 Second Grade + Ephesians 6:2-3

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

Prayer for Parents

Heavenly Father, You have given us the gift of children who are to be brought up in the training and instruction of the Gospel of Your Son. Give to all Christian fathers and mothers the strength and will to teach the Word of God to their children, and to see this responsibility as their most important duty. Deliver them from the temptation to abandon this sacred trust. Grant them faithfulness in their calling as parents, that they might love and care for their children even as You love and care for them in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Children

Heavenly Father, grant Your grace in Christ to all Christian children that they might honor their parents in spite of their failings, and enjoy a long and blessed life according to Your will; 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; 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 Saints Philip and James, Apostles (May 1)

Almighty God, Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; 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)

Baptism: Levi William, son of Kevin and Rachel Ruehle

Baptismal Anniversaries: Laura Knoerr (4/30), Andrew Stauber, and Mark Thoni (5/2).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jack and Debra Christopherson (5/5).

Our Seminarians: James Kirk (son of Pam & Randy Kirk) called to Immanuel Lutheran, Crystal Lake, IL; Jamie Bruss (son of Jon and Marty Bruss) – vicarage assignment at Trinity Lutheran, Norman, OK.

Change of Home: Lyle and Jan Wollin, who have moved to assisted living.

The Sick: Jon Bruss having heart surgery this week; Brad Jentsch (friend of Kathy May) complications after open heart surgery); Harold Kampin, in rehab following hip replacement surgery; Richard (friend of Steve & Sandy Lueck) in grave condition following a brain injury after a fall; Walt Dissen hospitalized in serious condition; Dawn Fredrich recovering from surgery; Mark Gretzinger undergoing medical testing for undiagnosed illness; Kathleen Hetzel, 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

"For Me to Live Is Jesus" (stanzas 1-3)

742

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate

May 7, 2023

Hymns: 502, 556, 874, 565, 573, 693

Isaiah 12:1-6: This section of Isaiah records a great song in praise of the Lord for His salvation. This is the song of the faithful who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and declared righteous for Jesus' sake. Like all faithful hymns and canticles, it extols the objective works of the Lord for our salvation and draws us outside ourselves to Him in confident faith and joyful praise of His salvation.

James 1:16-21: James speaks of the "implanted Word which is able to save your souls." The Spirit calls us by the Word of the Gospel to faith in Christ. He "implants" the Word in us. This is how the "conception" of the new life in Christ begins. The Spirit then brings about our new birth in Holy Baptism and we are the children of God. The life begun in us by the implanted Word moves us to turn away from all the filthiness of our unbelieving nature, because it is the life of Christ Himself in us—the Father's good and perfect gift.

John 16:5-15: Jesus teaches concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin through the preaching of repentance, we cannot be turned from unbelief to faith in Christ. Without the conviction of sin, the sinner has no use for Christ. The death of Christ for the sins of the world is the righteousness of God. Man is sinner. The proclamation of the Gospel creates faith in Christ and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake. The proclamation of the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake is the heart of the Spirit's work. The judgment of God that the sinner is righteous for Christ's sake sets man free from the judgment of the Law that the devil uses to condemn the world. Since God forgives us all sin and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake as a gift of His grace, the devil cannot accuse us of sin or damn us to eternal death." (from Lutheran Catechesis p. 127)