

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate
May 7 through May 14, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Comforting Catechesis on the Holy Spirit, the Comforter — This week’s Bible narratives continue Jesus’ comforting catechesis in the upper room. In this discourse, He prepares the Apostles and the Church of future generations concerning the **Work of the Holy Spirit** and what they are to expect. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of the Gospel to call to repentance and faith in Christ. The Spirit does this by convicting us of our sin, proclaiming the righteousness of Christ in His death, and proclaiming God’s judgment against the ruler of this world who stands condemned and has no power to condemn us. By the Word of the Gospel of Jesus’ suffering and death, we learn that **Our Sorrow Will Turn to Joy**. By the certain promises of His Word, we are encouraged to **Ask and You will Receive**. And in **Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer** we learn that Jesus is praying for us and that **Jesus Prays for the Apostles** and for those who will believe in Jesus through their Word, that they and the Church of every generation might be sanctified by Jesus’ Word and abide in His name to the end. Against the backdrop of Jesus’ catechesis we cannot help but think of the work of the Holy Spirit as described in the Catechism: “He calls us by the Gospel, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith...even as He calls, gathers, and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.”

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: The Holy Spirit Will Call Us to Faith and Comfort Us with the Gospel.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Mark 10:45a**

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give His life a ransom for many.

Psalms 66:1-8 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Thanks and praise be to You, O God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan, and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You; through the same Jesus Christ, 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	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135
Evening	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 5: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	
Monday	The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Tuesday	Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy—John 16:16-23	Jeremiah 31:10-14
Wednesday	Ask and You Will Receive—John 16:23b-33	1 Chronicles 16:8-13
Thursday	Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-10	1 Chronicles 16:14-22
Friday	Jesus Prays for the Apostles—John 17:11-19	1 Chronicles 16:23-30
Saturday	Jesus Prays for All Who Will Believe in Him—John 17:20-26	1 Chronicles 16:31-36

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Workers of All Kinds

Preschool children and everyone, review Ninth and Tenth Commandments (Primary Texts)

What does God’s Word say to workers of all kinds? Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:5
Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.	Second Grade + Ephesians 6:6
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:7

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

Prayer for Workers of All Kinds

Heavenly Father, Your Son became a slave for us to redeem us from all sin. He worked for our salvation, though we did not deserve it, and He submitted to Your will with all His heart. Forgive us all dishonor and disrespect toward our earthly masters and grant us the grace of Your Son that we might serve in our life's work with faithfulness toward You and in love and obedience for those we are called to serve, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: Sharon Murphy, Christine Haga (5/9), David Haga (5/10), Pat Pom (5/11), Rev. Peter Bender, Hannah Ligrow (5/12).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jim and Kathy Miller (5/8), Doug and Pat Pom (5/9).

Those Who Serve in the Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Robert Haga and Mark Meyle (Marines); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither (Army).

Thanksgiving - retirement of our debt.

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

The Sick: Jon Bruss recovering from heart surgery; 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.

Those Who Mourn: the death of Chuck Kuehl, brother of Jan Wollin, who died May 1.

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

Hymn of the Week

"You are the Way; through You Alone" (stanzas 1-3)

526

Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate

May 14, 2023

Hymns: 724 (1-5), TLH 25, 773, 746, 724 (6-10), 768

Numbers 21:4-9: The bite of the fiery serpents was sent upon the Children of Israel that they might see the consequences of their rebellion against God. God afflicted them that God might bring them to repentance and faith. Moses interceded for them and the people confessed their sin in repentant faith. God's will was done. He provided salvation through the sign of the bronze serpent upon the pole that future generations would look upon the one who hung in shame from the cross for the salvation of the entire world. The innocent Son of God became what we are as the Father imputed to Him our iniquity, that we might become what He is: righteous, holy, and eternally reconciled to the Father. Whoever "looks upon the bronze serpent" or "believes in the Son's sacrifice for us upon the cross" shall be saved.

1 Timothy 2:1-6: Paul's words to Timothy, responsible for training pastors and instructing them in the conduct of the liturgy, indicate what the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service should include and why: "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

John 16:23-33: Prayer is central to the Church, her ministry, and the Christian's own faith and life. "Prayer in Jesus' name" is prayer that asks for the gifts and help that Jesus promises in the Gospel. If the Church is troubled by persecution and suffering, she is to pray for strength. If she is tempted to be unfaithful, she is to pray for faithfulness. If you have sinned, pray for forgiveness. If you are tempted by the devil, pray for deliverance. If you are weak in fulfilling the responsibilities of your calling, pray for strength. We have Jesus' sure and certain promise: "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." Our prayers are heard, and they are absolutely answered when they are anchored in God's Word. Like the disciples before us, our faith, too, often wanes. They scattered and fled from Him, yet they were able to be restored because of His promise of grace to them in the Gospel. The same is true for us. "These things I have spoken to you," Jesus said, "that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."