

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate  
May 14 through May 21, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week** — *The resurrection and ascension of our Lord in the flesh to the Father's right hand belong together as the great concrete manifestations of our salvation. God's will at creation—to give of Himself to us—has been fulfilled. In Christ Jesus we share in the glory of God Himself, and reign with Christ as eternal victors over sin, death, and the power of the devil. What the devil promised Adam and Eve but could not deliver because he was not the God of love, God gave in the person of His Son by whom He took humanity into Himself. The Lord God has withheld nothing from us. Through the redemption of Christ Jesus we share in all the glorious treasure of heaven, not as "gods" for ourselves, but as recipients of the divine love and life of the blessed Trinity.—Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis.*

## 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: Pray Without Ceasing!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 14:2-3

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Psalm 116:1-7 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, You are gracious and merciful, You preserve the simple and save those who are brought low. I love You, O Lord, because You hear My prayers and answer them. Strengthen our faith in Your precious promises that we never fail to call upon You in every time of need, for You deliver our souls from death and keep our feet from stumbling; through 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	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5
Evening	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 6:</b> "Whatever you ask in My name..."—John 16:23-33	
Monday	The Commission to Baptize and Teach All Nations—Mt. 28:16-20	Daniel 7:9-14
Tuesday	Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20	Joshua 1:1-9
Wednesday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Genesis 22:1-19
Thursday	<b>Ascension of Our Lord:</b> Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Friday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Saturday	Easter 7: A New Heart and Spirit—Ezekiel 36:22-28	1 Peter 4:7-14

### The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Employers and Supervisors; To Youth

(Kindergarten children and everyone, review the primary texts of the first commandment through the conclusion)

<p>What does God's Word say to employers and supervisors? Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:9</p>
<p>What does God's Word say to youth? Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Peter 5:5</p>
<p>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Peter 5:6</p>

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

### **Prayer for Employers and Supervisors**

Gracious Lord, You have given us great responsibilities and authority as employers and supervisors of others. Teach us by Your grace and mercy to treat our workers and those who are under us with respect, understanding, and compassion. Give us a humble spirit toward them and help us to see our workers as gifts of God who depend upon us for their livelihood and who enable us to be of greater service to others for whom we perform our life's work; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Youth**

O Lord, as You in humility and faith submitted Yourself to Mary and Joseph and to every authority instituted among men for our salvation, teach us to submit to our elders and to believe that You will accomplish Your good purposes in our lives and in the lives of others through such honor and respect; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

### **Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate**

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 Ascension of Our Lord (May 18)**

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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:** Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe, Gabrielle Hartwig (5/14), Doris Erickson (5/15), Kevin Larson (5/16), Jason Petersen, John Lehman (5/17), Jacob Weber (5/19), Bob Corso (5/20).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15), Adam and Gracelyn Kerner (5/19), Jeff and Ali Meehan (5/20).

**The Sick:** David Burger (father of Kathy May), hospitalized; Rev. Wolf Knappe, in treatment for pneumonia, Jon Bruss recovering from heart catheterization; Harold Kampin, home following rehab stay; Walt Dissen in rehab with long road to recovery; 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 family and friends of Richard (friend of the Lueck's) who died last Thursday.

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

#### **Hymn of the Week**

#### **"The Head That Once Was Crowned" (stanzas 1, 5-6)**

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#### **Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi**

**May 21, 2023**

**Hymns: 689, 585, 647, 532, 539, 828**

**Ezekiel 36:22-28:** The prophet Ezekiel catechizes us on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we "hallow God's holy name" by calling upon it in every time of need. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we do not profane God's name but live faithfully in this vale of tears. The Holy Spirit sanctifies by the Word of God in baptism by "sprinkling clean water on us, cleansing us from all our filthiness ... and giving us a new heart and putting a new spirit within us." It is the Spirit, through the divine Word who "takes our heart of stone out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh" so that we walk faithfully in the Lord's Word.

**1 Peter 4:7-14:** The Apostle Peter encourages the Church in the face of suffering. The "fiery trial" of suffering is not "strange" to us if we know what the Bible teaches about the condition of the sinful heart. It is to be expected. Such suffering and persecution that we endure because of our confession of faith should be interpreted as a reason to rejoice because it means that we belong to Christ and, that by enduring such persecution in love for our enemies, we bear witness to the love of God in Christ. "Rejoice ... be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

**John 15:26—16:4:** On the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Jesus' catechesis directs us to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost. The Spirit is called the Helper or Comforter because His work is to minister the strength and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us. The Holy Spirit will make it possible for the apostles and the Church to endure suffering and persecution without falling away from Christ. The Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of Truth" because He "testifies" through the Word of God to the truth of who we are, of who Christ is, and of what Jesus has done in love for our salvation. By the testimony of the Spirit alone, sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. Jesus also instructed His apostles that persecution is coming for the Church, so that when they experience the persecution they will not stumble and fall away from their faith in Christ. It is an amazing phenomenon that the message of ultimate love and comfort for sinners—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—should be met with such violent hatred. The hatred of impenitent unbelief can be so great that those who persecute Christians and put them to death actually live under the delusion that they are rendering God a service. In spite of such bitter hatred and persecution, Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only makes it possible for us to endure such suffering, but that through such persecution the Church and her ministers also testify to the suffering and death of Jesus as the source of salvation for the world.