

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi
 May 21 through May 28, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Peace I Leave with You, My peace I give to you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27) “This is a very precious, final word, that He does not leave them cities and castles, or silver and gold, but His peace as the greatest treasure in heaven and on earth. They are not to be afraid or to mourn but are to have true and lovely and longed-for peace in their hearts. For as far as it rests with Me, He says, you will have nothing but pure peace and joy. For My presence and preaching have taught you that I love you with all My heart, and desire only your good, and My Father looks upon you most graciously. This is the best gift I can leave to you. For this is the highest peace, when the heart is content; as it is said ‘the joy of the heart is the greatest of all joys’; and again, ‘the sorrow of the heart is the greatest of all sorrows.’” Martin Luther

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 Spirit of Truth Will Testify of Jesus.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Phil.1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Psalms 51:1-12 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27
Evening	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 7: The Coming Persecution—John 15:26—16:4	
Monday	Watch and Pray for Jesus’ Coming—Matthew 24:4-14, 36-44	2 Peter 3:1-13
Tuesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Wednesday	Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Thursday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Psalms 68:18-20, 32-35
Friday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9
Saturday	Pentecost: The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Widows; To Everyone

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the First Commandment through the Conclusion)

<p>What does God’s Word say to widows? The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.</p>	<p>Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:5</p>
<p>But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade + 1 Timothy 5:6</p>
<p>What does God’s Word say to everyone? The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”</p>	<p>First Grade + Romans 13:9</p>
<p>I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1</p>

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

Prayer for Everyone

O Lord, as You have loved us in place of Yourself and thereby fulfilled all of God's Law on our behalf, teach us to walk by faith in Your love in all that we do, to live in love and self-sacrifice toward others in our callings, and to pray for everyone in need, seeking not our own glory but the welfare and salvation of our neighbor; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Widows

Heavenly Father, comfort all widows who have lost their husbands and are left all alone. Give them strength and courage to put their hope in You and to cry out to You for help night and day. In their loneliness and sorrow, draw them closer to Your Divine Services and deliver them from the temptation to seek fulfillment from the pleasures of life that can never truly satisfy. Teach them to believe that they have a sacred calling as widows to live by faith in the greater Bridegroom, who has laid down His life for His bride and in whom alone are pleasures forevermore, through the same 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him 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: Peter Greschner (5/21), Autumn Walentoski (5/23), Jordan Fischer (5/24), Lydia Christiansen (5/26).

Wedding Anniversaries: Mark and Julie Goltermann (5/22), Matthew and Betty Voss (5/26).

The Sick: Karen (mother of Peggy Lundberg) suffering with severe shingles; Evan Lewis hospitalized, following a leg amputation; David Berger home with ongoing medical evaluation and treatment; Harold Kampin, recovering at home; 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, Heather Peters, and Jeff (friend of the Goltermanns) in cancer treatment.

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

Hymn of the Week

"See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" (stanzas 1 and 4)

494

Looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost

May 28, 2023

Hymns: 498, 497, 496, 501, 500, 504

Genesis 11:1-9: *At the Tower of Babel man's speech was confused by God because of the idolatry of man's heart. On Pentecost all confusion, disorder, envy, and pride is put to flight as the one Gospel of God's grace and salvation in Christ is proclaimed in many languages and to many peoples. The word of the Gospel restores the peace and harmony that was lost at Babel.*

Acts 2:1-21: *St. Luke's account of the Day of Pentecost records the signs associated with the Spirit being poured out upon the Apostles. The sound of rushing wind was a sign that the Holy Spirit was given for the sake of the preaching of the Gospel and that the Spirit blows like the wind, converting to faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel. The tongues of fire upon their heads designated these men to be the chosen and authoritative witnesses of Jesus. The Church is bound to their Word because the Apostolic Doctrine comes from the Holy Spirit. The ability to speak in foreign languages is a sign that the Gospel is for all people, of every race, tribe, nation, and language. Jonah's prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Spirit in the last days describes the entire period of the Church's life from the time of the Apostles to the Second Coming of Christ. During this period, the Holy Spirit is poured out through preaching. This preaching creates both the faith that calls upon the Lord for salvation and the hope of the glorious resurrection of the body to eternal life.*

John 14:23-31: *We have fellowship with the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus and the Word of the Gospel. True faith loves Christ and all that He says. Love for Christ and His Word receives strength from the Word. Just as the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles to bring to their remembrance everything that Jesus had taught them, so Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit is the Father's gift to us through His Word. By the Word of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to us, imparting to us Jesus' peace—the peace of sins forgiven, peace with God, and the peace of a conscience that is free from guilt and the Law's threat of punishment. All this Jesus promises us when He says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep [believe, trust, and depend upon] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*