

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti  
 April 7, 2024, through April 14, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Sufficiency of God’s Grace** — “Every Christian “knows the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” because it is proclaimed to us in the Gospel. It is the pure, undeserved, sacrificial love of Jesus that moved Him to become one with our flesh and weakness, and to suffer and die for our sins. We know and believe in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. It is this grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that moved Him to do what He did for us—to become man, to humble Himself, to suffer, and to die for the unworthy and undeserving. Though He was ‘rich’—the holy, eternal, omnipotent Son of God who shared in the Father’s glory from eternity and through whom the Father made all things—yet for our sakes He became ‘poor.’ This is love. He set aside His power and glory as the eternal Son of God and became man, humbling Himself to the point of bearing the sin of the whole world in His own body upon the cross and dying for us that we through His poverty—the poverty of His humble conception, birth, and accursed suffering and death—might become rich, partakers of His divine life. To become rich in Christ is to share eternally in the grace of God and to become partakers with Jesus of the immortal and incorruptible life that He won for us in His humiliation, suffering, and death. This is the promise of eternal salvation for all who believe in Jesus. This grace of God is also the source of our faith and life as we await the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” [Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist edition, p. 94c]

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

### Theme: Peace be with you! Christ is risen!

#### Invocation

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

#### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich,  
 yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

#### Psalm 33 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

*Prayer on the Psalm:* Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	75, 76
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	77

#### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Lord Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31</b>	
Monday	The Resurrection—Mark 16:1-8	Job 19:23-27
Tuesday	The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-27	Acts 10:34-43
Wednesday	Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35	Acts 13:26-33
Thursday	Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49	Acts 3:11-21
Friday	Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1—2:2
Saturday	I Will Search for My Sheep—Ezekiel 34:11-16	1 Peter 2:21-25

#### The Catechism: Of Civil Government

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the fourth, fifth and sixth commandments.)

What does God’s Word say of Civil Government? Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.	First Grade + Romans 13:1
Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.	Second Grade + Romans 13:2
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade + Romans 13:3
For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	Fourth Grade + Romans 13:4

**Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace**

**Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti**

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Daily Themes for Prayer — "Let us pray..."**

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

**In Our Prayers this Week — "Let us pray for..."**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Verla Gatchell (4/7), Paul Woehrmann, Rachael Ligrow, Sarah Ligrow (4/8), Nicola Giordano (4/9), Jennifer Scheler (4/11), Grayson Palmer (4/12), Heide Schaff, Judith Woehrmann (4/13).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Jim and Gayle Cardo (4/11).

**Military:** Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army).

**The Sick:** Anna Steinhilb recovering from surgery; Bruce Fehr, Bill Spilger, Tom Smith, Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig for cancer.

**Those in Hospice:** Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother-Nicola Giordano), Karen (aunt-Mark Thoni), Carzell Frerking (mother of Jim Frerking)

**Those Who Mourn:** Karen Leach (mother of Peggy Lundberg), Edna Gierach (mother of Bob Gierach), Grace Mickow (wife of the late Rev. Vernon Mickow, former pastor of Peace).

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (stanzas 1-4)**

458

**Looking forward to the Third Sunday of Easter/Quasimodo Geniti**

**April 14, 2024**

**Hymns: 463, 709, 710, 641, 478, 692**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16:** The seeking Shepherd is a vivid description of the ministry of our Lord in both His death and the ongoing proclamation of His Word. Throughout this prophecy, the Lord indicates how HE will take the initiative to seek out and save His lost sheep: "I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out... I seek out My sheep... I will bring them out... I will feed them... I will feed My flock... I will make them lie down... I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick"

**1 Peter 2:21-25:** The "example" or pattern of Christ's sufferings is that He committed Himself to the Father who judges righteously. This week's reading from Peter's first epistle is the climax of this section in which he catechizes us concerning Christian vocation. All offices that Christians might hold take their cue from Jesus' example of submission to the Father's will to lay down His life for the unworthy and undeserving. The true heart of Christian vocation is the call to live by faith in God's mercy in Christ. It is through His mercy and grace that we are drawn back to Him who is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

**John 10:11-16:** Jesus said, "I lay down My life for the sheep." These words are spoken in the context of explaining that a hireling does not care for the sheep as the Good Shepherd does, but rather flees when he sees the wolf coming. The wolf is Satan. He attacks us by using our sin against us. We have no defense in ourselves. But we have a Good Shepherd. He stood up to the devil by laying down His life on our behalf. The devil was out for blood. He demanded that blood be shed because of sin. Jesus was the only One who could make atonement for our sin. He loved us to the point of laying down His life for us that we might be rescued from Satan and the condemnation of hell. The flock of Christ is kept safe solely by the forgiveness of sins which is ours in the Good Shepherd. The ministry of every pastor is to be patterned after the ministry of our Lord. As He loved us and laid down His life for our forgiveness, so pastors are to love their flocks and lay down their lives, so to speak, for the cause of proclaiming that Word of forgiveness that sets them free.