

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini  
 April 14, 2024, through April 21, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week** — **“God’s Purpose’** to which we are called is faith and salvation in Christ. His ‘good and gracious will’ for those whom He has made His own in Holy Baptism is that we be preserved in His Word and faith until we die. There are many things in our lives that war against faith in Christ and tempt us to turn away from Him. God promises to work in every circumstance of our life, especially hardship, suffering, and tragedy, for our ultimate good. It is always the devil’s will to use these things to destroy our faith. It is always God’s will to work in every circumstance of our life to strengthen our reliance upon Christ.” [Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 184a]

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

### Theme: The Lord Is My Shepherd!

#### Invocation

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

#### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

#### Psalm 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love You laid down Your life for us Your sheep. We give You praise and glory for Your unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You through the valley of the shadow of death. Deliver us from all our foes until Your whole flock shall be gathered about You in the resurrection on the last day, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91
Evening	77	79	81	83	86	87	90	93

#### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	“I Am the Good Shepherd”—John 10:11-16	
Monday	Israel Demands a King—1 Samuel 8:1-22	Colossians 1:19-29
Tuesday	Saul Is Chosen to Be King—1 Samuel 9:1-6 (7-9) 10-24	Colossians 2:1-10
Wednesday	Saul Is Anointed King—1 Samuel 9:25—10:16	Colossians 2:11-23
Thursday	Saul Is Proclaimed King—1 Samuel 10:17-27	Colossians 3:1-11
Friday	Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead—1 Samuel 11:1-15	Colossians 3:12-17
Saturday	The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases—Lamentations 3:22-33	1 Peter 2:11-20

#### The Catechism: Table of Duties—Of Citizens

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

What does God’s Word say of citizens? Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.	First Grade + Matthew 22:21
It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.	Third Grade + Romans 13:5-7
I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1-3
Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.	First Grade + Titus 3:1
Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.	Fourth Grade + 1 Peter 2:13-14

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

**Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter/Misericordias Domini**

*O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness, and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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:** *Grace Palmer, Sarah May, Savannah LaFore (4/15), Tyler Haga, Steven Haga (4/16), Shirley Weber (4/17), Landon Carus (4/18), Pat Schmitz (4/19), Bennett Kütemeier (4/20).*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Wally and Mary Schneider (4/14).*

**Vicarage & Deaconess Internship Placement:** *CTSFW (4/23) & CSL (4/24)*

**Thanksgiving:** *birth of Asher James McMiller (grandson of Pam & Randy Kirk and Robin & Fritz Theilacker)*

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

**Palliative Care:** *Dave Williams (friend of the Duessler family)*

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

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (stanza 1)**

483

**Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate**

**April 21, 2024**

**Hymns:** 818, 483, 479, 756, 737, 481

**Lamentations 3:22-33:** *The Prophet Jeremiah experienced much suffering throughout his ministry leading up to and following the Babylonian Captivity of Judah. His words, however, are reassuring for us in any of our suffering as Christians. The assertions are clear, and they buoy faith: “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not, they are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Jeremiah also underscores God’s promise to use suffering for our good: “It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord... For the Lord will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.”*

**1 Peter 2:11-20:** *Peter tells us to “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.” This admonition reminds us that the desires and appetites of the flesh are at enmity with faith. Just as faith is turned outward to Christ and finds its sufficiency in Him, so the flesh has a faith of its own which turns inward to every self-centered desire. Contrition and repentance, confession and absolution are our weapons against the fleshly lusts and the means by which we learn to abstain from them for the sake of our soul’s salvation.*

**John 16:16-22:** *Jesus describes His suffering and death as “a little while.” During this “little while” He goes to the Father to offer His lifeblood into death for our sins. This “little while” was filled with great grief for the disciples, but their sorrow was turned to joy in His resurrection from the dead. From this “little while” we learn what is characteristic for us and the Church in this world. The “little while” of Christ’s suffering and the lamentation of the disciples corresponds to the “little while” of the Church’s and every individual Christian’s suffering because of sin and persecution. Nevertheless, this “little while” is short-lived. Our Lord is not only risen from the dead, but He comes to us with His grace and forgiveness to turn our sorrow into joy. There is joy in the Christian life now. We do not have to wait for it until the resurrection on the last day. It is a joy in the midst of the cross of affliction.*