

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate  
 April 21, 2024, through April 28, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Office of Husband** — This week’s section of the Table of Duties directs us to what God’s Word says concerning the office of Husband. When the Apostle Peter directs, “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” He is reminding husbands that their wives have been given an office by God that places them in a subordinate position to them. It would be very easy for the husband, corrupted by the sinful flesh as he is, to take advantage of his headship and the wife’s position of subordination to him. He is to “be considerate” of the position that God gave her and be husband to her in selfless love. Although they are not in the same office, they are, nevertheless, equal “heirs of the gracious gift of life” in Christ Jesus. If he does not believe that, then his prayers, which include the ministration of his office as a husband will be “hindered.” The essential disposition of the husband to the wife is contained in the passage from Colossians: “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” Here the husband’s office is depicted as the office of Christ to His bride the Church, as it is also in Ephesians 5. Christ loves His bride by laying down His life for her and covering her sins with His blood. He is never harsh with her who is “bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, but nourishes and cares for her as His own body.” The office of husband finds its identity in Christ, the Church’s Bridegroom.

## 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.

## Theme: Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 8:31b-32

If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,  
 how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Psalm 147:1-11 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, grant us grace to ever sing Your praise for all that You have done and continue to do for us and for Your holy church throughout the world. Heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. Send out Your Word to comfort and sustain us. Teach us to fear You and to hope in Your mercy, 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	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107
Evening	93	94	97	99	102	104	106	108

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	“Your Sorrow Will Be Turned into Joy”—John 16:12-22	
Monday	Samuel’s Address at Saul’s Coronation—1 Samuel 12:1 (2-13) 14-25	Col. 3:18—4:1
Tuesday	Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice—1 Samuel 13:1-14	Colossians 4:2-18
Wednesday	Saul’s Wars and His Unfaithfulness—1 Samuel 14:52—15:9	1 John 1:1—2:2
Thursday	<b>St. Mark, Evangelist:</b> Mark 16:14-20	2 Timothy 4:5-18
Friday	Saul Is Rejected by the Lord—1 Samuel 15:10-35	1 John 2:3-14
Saturday	The Song of Isaiah—Isaiah 12:1-6	James 1:16-21

### The Catechism Table of Duties— To Husbands

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

What does God’s Word say to husbands? Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:7
Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.	First Grade + Colossians 3:19

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

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate**

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; 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 Saint Mark, Evangelist (April 25)**

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:** Jim Frerking, Gary Gehlbach, Jason Hoffmann (4/23), John Thoni, Kevin Ruehle (4/24), Joe Schneider, Fritz Theilacker (4/25), Nicole Aidich (4/26), Mary Heise, David Uttenreither, Valerie Zalewski (4/27).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bob and Sandy Elmer (4/24), Pat and Sharon Murphy (4/25), Mark and Holly Schneider, Eric and Kayla Kütemeier (4/26).

**Calls and Placements:** Vicars, Deaconess Interns, and Calls for Pastors and Deaconesses from our two Seminaries this week.

**The Sick:** Ann (sister of Betsy Banasik) in ICU; Dan McMüller being treated for heart disease; 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**

**"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (stanzas 1 and 4)**

487

**Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate**

**April 28, 2024**

**Hymns: 790, 556, 465, 563, 768, 548**

**Isaiah 12:1-6:** This section of Isaiah records a great song in praise of the Lord for His salvation. This is the song of the faithful who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and declared righteous for Jesus' sake. Like all faithful hymns and canticles, it extols the objective works of the Lord for our salvation and draws us outside ourselves to Him in confident faith and joyful praise of His salvation.

**James 1:16-21:** James speaks of the "implanted Word which is able to save your souls." The Spirit calls us by the Word of the Gospel to faith in Christ. He "implants" the Word in us. This is how the "conception" of the new life in Christ begins. The Spirit then brings about our new birth in Holy Baptism and we are the children of God. The life begun in us by the implanted Word moves us to turn away from all the filthiness of our unbelieving nature, because it is the life of Christ Himself in us—the Father's good and perfect gift.

**John 16:5-15:** Jesus teaches concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin through the preaching of repentance, we cannot be turned from unbelief to faith in Christ. Without the conviction of sin, the sinner has no use for Christ. The death of Christ for the sins of the world is the righteousness of God. Man is sinner. The proclamation of the Gospel creates faith in Christ and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake. The proclamation of the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake is the heart of the Spirit's work. The judgment of God that the sinner is righteous for Christ's sake sets man free from the judgment of the Law that the devil uses to condemn the world. Since God forgives us all sin and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake as a gift of His grace, the devil cannot accuse us of sin or damn us to eternal death." (from Lutheran Catechism p. 127)