

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate  
 April 28, 2024, through May 5, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Table of Duties Concerning Wives and Husbands**—The passages of Holy Scripture in the Table of Duties concern the offices we have been given as Christians where our faith in Christ is lived out in this world. There is often great confusion about these two holy offices. Husbands are the head of their wives, but their headship is one of sacrificial love, teaching the Word of God, and forgiving sin. They are to be considerate of their wives who are placed in an office that requires them to submit to their husbands. Husbands are not to lord their authority over their wives. This is always a temptation for any Christian husband. Wives are to understand that their office of submission is patterned after Christ's bride the Church. They are to expect their husbands to love them, teach them, and forgive them. Their beauty is not in outward adornment, but in the reception of their husband's love. "This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands..." It is a beautiful and blessed thing when husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and when wives receive that love and trust in it.

## 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: Sing to the Lord a New Song!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
 No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Psalm 66:1-8 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Thanks and praise be to You, O God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You; through the same 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	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112
Evening	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15</b>	
Monday	David Is Anointed King—1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 John 2:15-27
Tuesday	David Plays the Harp for Saul—1 Samuel 16:14-23	1 John 2:28—3:9
Wednesday	<b>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles—John 14:1-14</b>	Isaiah 30:18-21
Thursday	Goliath the Philistine Giant—1 Samuel 17:1-19	1 John 3:10-24
Friday	David Journeys to the Battlefield—1 Samuel 17:20-37	1 John 4:1-11
Saturday	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:4-9	1 Timothy 2:1-6

### The Catechism Table of Duties— Table of Duties— To Wives

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the seventh through eighth commandments.)

What does God's Word say of wives? Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.	Third Grade + Ephesians 5:22
[This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.] They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:5-6

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

**Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Cantate**

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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 Saints Philip and James, Apostles (May 1)**

Almighty God, Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same 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:** Matthew Fabrizius (4/28), Rachel Frerking (4/29), Laura Knoerr, Levi Ruehle (4/30) Clint Duessler (5/1), Andrew Stauber, Mark Thoni (5/2).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Pat and Laura Schmitz (4/28), Mike and Angie Clark (4/29).

**The Sick:** Ann (sister of Betsy Banasik) in rehab; Dan McMiller being treated for heart disease; Tom Smith (father of Christine Franklin) in treatment for pneumonia; Dave Williams in palliative care; Bruce Fehr, Bill Spilger, 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).

**Those who mourn:** Friends and family of Carzell Frerking (mother of Jim Frerking).

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (stanzas 1-2)**

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**Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate**

**May 5, 2024**

**Hymns: 772, 766, 469, 726, 734, 729**

**Numbers 21:4-9:** The bite of the fiery serpents was sent upon the Children of Israel that they might see the consequences of their rebellion against God. God afflicted them that God might bring them to repentance and faith. Moses interceded for them and the people confessed their sin in repentant faith. God’s will was done. He provided salvation through the sign of the bronze serpent upon the pole that future generations would look upon the one who hung in shame from the cross for the salvation of the entire world. The innocent Son of God became what we are as the Father imputed to Him our iniquity, that we might become what He is: righteous, holy, and eternally reconciled to the Father. Whoever “looks upon the bronze serpent” or “believes in the Son’s sacrifice for us upon the cross” shall be saved.

**1 Timothy 2:1-6:** Paul’s words to Timothy, responsible for training pastors and instructing them in the conduct of the liturgy, indicate what the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service should include and why: “I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

**John 16:23-33:** Prayer is central to the Church, her ministry, and the Christian’s own faith and life. “Prayer in Jesus’ name” is prayer that asks for the gifts and help that Jesus promises in the Gospel. If the Church is troubled by persecution and suffering, she is to pray for strength. If she is tempted to be unfaithful, she is to pray for faithfulness. If you have sinned, pray for forgiveness. If you are tempted by the devil, pray for deliverance. If you are weak in fulfilling the responsibilities of your calling, pray for strength. We have Jesus’ sure and certain promise: “Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” Our prayers are heard, and they are absolutely answered when they are anchored in God’s Word. Like the disciples before us, our faith, too, often wanes. They scattered and fled from Him, yet they were able to be restored because of His promise of grace to them in the Gospel. The same is true for us. “These things I have spoken to you,” Jesus said, “that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”