

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate
 May 5, 2024, through May 12, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Table of Duties: To Parents and Children—“It would be well to preach to parents on the nature of their office, how they should treat those committed to their authority...God does not want to have knaves or tyrants in this office and responsibility nor does he assign them this honor (that is, power and authority to govern) merely to receive homage. Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office, not only to provide for the material support of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but especially to bring them up to the praise and honor of God...If we want qualified and capable men for both civil and spiritual leadership, we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and mankind. We must not think only of amassing money and property for them. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed He does daily. But he has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to His will; otherwise God would have no need of father and mother. Therefore let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God, and if they are gifted to give them opportunity to learn and study so that they may be of service wherever they are needed.” (4th Commandment, Large Catechism)

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: Pray Without Ceasing!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

Psalm 107:1-9 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Oh Lord, grant us to give thanks to You for Your eternal mercy and goodness toward us in Christ. You are our Redeemer from all our enemies. May we never turn away from You but abide in the comfort and consolation of Your love all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138
Evening	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Whatever You Ask the Father in My Name—John 16:23-33	
Monday	David Kills Goliath—1 Samuel 17:32, 37-54	1 John 4:12-21
Tuesday	Saul Resents David—1 Samuel 17:55—18:16	1 John 5:1-13
Wednesday	David Marries Michal—1 Samuel 18:17-29	1 John 5:14-21
Thursday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Friday	Matthias is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Saturday	The Call of the Gospel Goes Out to the Nations—Ezekiel 36:22-28	1 Peter 4:7-14

The Catechism Table of Duties— To Parents and Children

(Preschool children and everyone, review the Ninth and Tenth Commandments)

<p>What does God's Word say to parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:4</p>
<p>What does God's Word say to children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”</p>	<p>First Grade + Ephesians 6:1 Second Grade + Ephesians 6:2-3</p>

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

Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogate

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 the Ascension of Our Lord (May 9)

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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: Sharon Murphy, Christine Haga (5/9), David Haga (5/10), Pat Pom (5/11).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jack and Debra Christopherson (5/5), Jim and Kathleen Miller (5/8), Doug and Pam Pom (5/9).

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

The Sick: Mark Goltermann recovering; Rev. Dan McMiller being treated for heart disease; 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: The deaths of Tom Smith (father of Christine Franklin) and Dave Williams (friend of the Duessler family).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Up through Endless Ranks of Angels” (stanza 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi

May 12, 2024

Hymns: 464, 539, 597, 724, 693, 477

Ezekiel 36:22-28: The prophet Ezekiel catechizes us on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we “hallow God’s holy name” by calling upon it in every time of need. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we do not profane God’s name but live faithfully in this vale of tears. The Holy Spirit sanctifies by the Word of God in baptism by “sprinkling clean water on us, cleansing us from all our filthiness ... and giving us a new heart and putting a new spirit within us.” It is the Spirit, through the divine Word who “takes our heart of stone out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh” so that we walk faithfully in the Lord’s Word.

1 Peter 4:7-14: The Apostle Peter encourages the Church in the face of suffering. The “fiery trial” of suffering is not “strange” to us if we know what the Bible teaches about the condition of the sinful heart. It is to be expected. Such suffering and persecution that we endure because of our confession of faith should be interpreted as a reason to rejoice because it means that we belong to Christ and, that by enduring such persecution in love for our enemies, we bear witness to the love of God in Christ. “Rejoice ... be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

John 15:26—16:4: On the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Jesus’ catechesis directs us to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost. The Spirit is called the Helper or Comforter because His work is to minister the strength and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us. The Holy Spirit will make it possible for the apostles and the Church to endure suffering and persecution without falling away from Christ. The Holy Spirit is also called the “Spirit of Truth” because He “testifies” through the Word of God to the truth of who we are, of who Christ is, and of what Jesus has done in love for our salvation. By the testimony of the Spirit alone, sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. Jesus also instructed His apostles that persecution is coming for the Church, so that when they experience the persecution they will not stumble and fall away from their faith in Christ. It is an amazing phenomenon that the message of ultimate love and comfort for sinners—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—should be met with such violent hatred. The hatred of impenitent unbelief can be so great that those who persecute Christians and put them to death actually live under the delusion that they are rendering God a service. In spite of such bitter hatred and persecution, Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only makes it possible for us to endure such suffering, but that through such persecution the Church and her ministers also testify to the suffering and death of Jesus as the source of salvation for the world.