

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi
 May 12, 2024, through May 19, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Table of Duties: To Workers of All Kinds—How many employees or workers would call themselves “slaves”? Not too many. If one did consider himself a slave, it would not be a complimentary term. Yet “slave” is a term that is often used in the New Testament of our Lord. For Him it is not demeaning. It is a term that describes the nature of His office as one who has come into the world to serve not Himself but others. He came to serve both the Father in love and sinful man in love to the point of dying upon the cross. He had no thought for Himself or for His own protection or welfare. He is the ultimate “worker,” and in His work we see the true nature of Christian work. We “work” as Christians, not to serve ourselves, but to serve others in love. The characteristic of our work is that it is done for others, even if they do not appreciate it. Selfless love is what motivated Jesus, and it is that love to which we are called by faith in the Gospel. Jesus’ selfless love and service to us is reflected in His own words: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Since this is Jesus’ confession about Himself, we should not be adverse to having ourselves called slaves. [Reprinted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

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: The Holy Spirit Will Testify of Me!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;
 it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Psalms 51:1-12 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9
Evening	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Coming of Persecution—John 15:26—16:4	
Monday	The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20	Daniel 7:9-14
Tuesday	The Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20	Joshua 1:1-9
Wednesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Thursday	Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Friday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Psalms 68:18-20, 32-35
Saturday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9

The Catechism: Table of Duties — To Workers of All Kinds

Preschool children and everyone, review Ninth and Tenth Commandments (Primary Texts)

What does God’s Word say to workers of all kinds? Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:5
Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.	Second Grade + Ephesians 6:6
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:7
because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.	Fourth Grade + Ephesians 6:8

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

Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him 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: *Rev. Peter Bender, Hannah Rhode (5/12), Gabrielle Hartwig (5/14), Doris Erickson (5/15), Kevin Larson (5/16), Jason Petersen, John Lehman (5/17).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15), Paul and Jennifer Johnson (5/18).*

The Sick: *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)*

Those who mourn: *The family and friends of Mark Thoni’s Aunt Karen, and those of Alice Brick (aunt of Michelle Ratzlaff).*

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

Hymn of the Week

“Christ Is the World’s Redeemer” (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost

May 19, 2024

Hymns: 499, 497, 689, 602, 683, 573, 768

Genesis 11:1-9: *At the Tower of Babel man’s speech was confused by God because of the idolatry of man’s heart. On Pentecost all confusion, disorder, envy, and pride is put to flight as the one Gospel of God’s grace and salvation in Christ is proclaimed in many languages and to many peoples. The word of the Gospel restores the peace and harmony that was lost at Babel.*

Acts 2:1-21: *St. Luke’s account of the Day of Pentecost records the signs associated with the Spirit being poured out upon the Apostles. The sound of rushing wind was a sign that the Holy Spirit was given for the sake of the preaching of the Gospel and that the Spirit blows like the wind, converting to faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel. The tongues of fire upon their heads designated these men to be the chosen and authoritative witnesses of Jesus. The Church is bound to their Word because the Apostolic Doctrine comes from the Holy Spirit. The ability to speak in foreign languages is a sign that the Gospel is for all people, of every race, tribe, nation, and language. Jonah’s prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Spirit in the last days describes the entire period of the Church’s life from the time of the Apostles to the Second Coming of Christ. During this period, the Holy Spirit is poured out through preaching. This preaching creates both the faith that calls upon the Lord for salvation and the hope of the glorious resurrection of the body to eternal life.*

John 14:23-31: *We have fellowship with the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus and the Word of the Gospel. True faith loves Christ and all that He says. Love for Christ and His Word receives strength from the Word. Just as the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles to bring to their remembrance everything that Jesus had taught them, so Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit is the Father’s gift to us through His Word. By the Word of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to us, imparting to us Jesus’ peace—the peace of sins forgiven, peace with God, and the peace of a conscience that is free from guilt and the Law’s threat of punishment. All this Jesus promises us when He says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep [believe, trust, and depend upon] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”*