

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For Holy Week

April 13, through April 20, 2025

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

Theme: Father Forgive Them, for They Know Not What They Do!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 8:38-39

I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 118 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, almighty, it pleased You that through the rejection of Your Son You should bring about the salvation of all who have rejected You. This marvelous work of Jesus’ suffering and death is Your doing, and it is precious in our sight for it means that all of life and salvation, peace and contentment, come from Your Son alone, whose atoning sacrifice is our righteousness. Save us now, O Lord, from all our sins and from every false reliance upon ourselves. Teach us to confess: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; You are my God; I will extol you, for Your steadfast love endures forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101
Evening	86	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Before Pontius Pilate and King Herod—Luke 23:1-12	
Monday	St Matthew Passion—Matthew 26:1–27:66	Hebrews 9:11-15
Tuesday	St Mark Passion—Mark 14:1—15:47	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Wednesday	Midweek: The King of the Jews is Mocked—Luke 23:13-38	Psalm 78:31-39
Thursday	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1-15, 34-35	1 Cor. 11:23-32
Good Friday	No School: Jesus’ Death and Burial—Luke 23:39-56 St John Passion: John 18:1–19:42	Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Saturday	Holy Saturday—Matthew 27:57-66	1 Peter 3:17-22

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 Holy Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; 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: Heide Schaff, Judith Woehrmann, Josh McComack (4/13), 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).

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

The Sick: Esther Prowatzke (hospitalized), David Berger recovering from a hospitalization for seizures, Katie Larson, undergoing cardiac testing and treatment.

Cancer Treatment: Laurie Roe, recently diagnosed with lymphoma and beginning treatment, Ken Hinckle (father-in-law of Amy (Ratzlaff) Hinckle); Steven Jahnke (nephew of Donna Lovas), Gary Luderman, Rachel Preus, Tempy McCombe, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), and Rev. Luke Boehringer, in cancer treatment.

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

Hymn of the Week

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (stanzas 1, 4, 6 and 7)

450

Looking forward to The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Week

April 20, 2025

Hymns: 457, 467, 482, 486, 468, 490, 477

Isaiah 25:6-9: *The mountain of the Lord, where He provides a feast for all people, is His Church in the eternal glory of heaven. In the resurrection to eternal life, the faithful have the promise that He will swallow up death forever and end all sorrow and suffering. In that day our confession of faith in Christ will be vindicated, as the prophet declares: “It will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.’”*

1 Cor. 15:12-25: *Christ’s death upon the cross made atonement for the sins of the world, suffering the punishment that we by our sins deserved. The result of His death upon the cross is forgiveness of sins and, therefore, life and salvation. This is why Paul says that “if Christ is not risen from the dead, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” Christianity is not based upon a fairy tale, but upon the historical events of the bodily crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead for the salvation of the world.*

John 20:1-18: *The account of the resurrection of our Lord from the Evangelist St. John emphasizes the intimate details that surrounded that first Easter. The disciples loved their Lord because of the love that they had received from Him. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early on Sunday morning to weep and complete the preparations of the body for a proper burial. When she found that the tomb was empty, she ran to tell Peter and John, believing that someone had stolen Jesus’ body. Peter and John’s hurried visit to the tomb found it just as Mary had said, but they did not find Jesus’ body. Finally, as Mary stood in bewildered grief in the cemetery garden, Jesus Himself, risen from the dead, spoke to her and called her by name. Overwhelmed with joy and love for Him she held onto His body with all her might. He was alive! He was risen from the dead, body and soul! She held on to her Jesus! What Mary did was not wrong. She did what true faith always does: it clings to Jesus’ Word; it holds on to Him! In our grief and sorrows, we are strengthened by Jesus’ comforting Word of forgiveness and grace; and we partake of His true body and blood in the blessed and sure hope that we will rise with Him bodily on the last day.*