

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate
 May 11 through May 18, 2025

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 derogatory. It is a term that describes the nature of His office as one who has come into the world to serve no one but others. He came to serve the Father in love and sinful man in love to the point of dying upon the cross. He had no thought for Himself or 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 the Bible Verse for the week: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Since this is Jesus' confession about Himself, we should not be adverse to have ourselves called slaves.

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: Our 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 3:28

A man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Psalm 66 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	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20
Evening	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	"Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy" —John 16:16-22	
Monday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Tuesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Wednesday	Peter's Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Thursday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Ps. 68:18-20, 32-35
Friday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Isaiah 12:1-6	James 1:16-21

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 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.

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: Pat Pom (5/11), Rev. Peter Bender, Hannah Rhode (5/12), Doris Erickson (5/15), Kevin Larson (5/16), Hannah Hardenbrook, Jason Petersen, John Lehman (5/17).

Wedding anniversaries: Mark and Mary Kay Schmudlach – 40th (5/11), Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15).

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

The sick: Kevin Kehres hospitalized, Bob Corso following hospitalization; Harlan Petersen (Jason's father), following knee replacement.

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

Those in hospice: Don Fell, in-home hospice and Charles Schwen (brother-in-law of Carol Bender).

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

Hymn of the Week

"This Joyful Eastertide" (stanzas 1-3)

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Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Jubilate

May 18, 2025

Hymns: 795, 927, 556, 528, 502, 465, 729

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 Catechesis p. 127)