

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For Holy Week

March 29 through April 5, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Sufficiency of God’s Grace — The verse for the week contains Jesus’ word of comfort to the Apostle Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” No Christian enjoys suffering, hardship, persecution, the struggle with sin, stumbling in temptation, a bad conscience that doubts God’s forgiveness, or the experience of our own frailties and weaknesses. Yet Jesus says to us the same thing He said to Paul: “My strength is made perfect in weakness.” The paradox of the Christian life is that it is only through the experience of our human weaknesses and limitations as sinners that we truly come to know the power and comfort of God’s grace in Christ. Without the experience of the Law condemning us, our conscience accusing us, and the sufferings and struggles of our lives weighing us down, we would never be in the proper position to receive the free, unconditional and totally unmerited mercy of God that Jesus gives to us in the Gospel. That God loves and forgives us for Jesus’ sake precisely because we are weak and infirm without Him is the heart of the Gospel and the center of our faith. That God loves and forgives us freely for Jesus’ sake as sinners is precisely the power by which we live our lives each day as Christians. Without weakness, struggle, and suffering we would not understand and know the fullness of God’s love for us in Christ which is the source of a joyful life that is lived in the absolute freedom of Jesus’ forgiveness and unending mercy. No wonder, then, that St. Paul goes on to confess: “Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

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: His Blood Be on Us and on Our Children!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

[Jesus said,] “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Psalm 118:19-29 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 118: We will praise You, O Lord Jesus, for You are our salvation and our righteousness. Enliven the praise of Your Church that every faithful Christian may confess Your holy name and sing of Your righteousness and mercy all the days of our life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	93
Evening	42,32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	136, 117

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Palm Sunday: St. Matthew Passion—26:1–27:66	
Monday	Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest—John 18:1-27	Lamentations 3:19-33
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—John 18:28-40	Isaiah 52:4-10
Wednesday	Jesus Is Crucified—John 19:1-24	Psalm 22
Thursday	Maundy Thursday—John 13:1-17, 31b-35	1 Corinthians 11:23-32
Friday	Jesus’ Side Is Pierced—John 19:25-42	Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Saturday	Jesus’ Burial—Matthew 27:57-66	1 Peter 4:1-8

Catechism: Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the, fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments.)

<p>Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.</p>	Everyone
<p>What does God’s Word say of Civil Government? Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.</p>	First Grade + Romans 13:1

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.	Second Grade + Romans 13:2
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade + Romans 13:3
For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	Fourth Grade + Romans 13:4

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

Collect for Palm Sunday

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.

Collect for Maundy Thursday

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Good Friday

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same 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...” LSB p. 294

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Birth: Jeffrey Philip Fischer, infant grandson of Pastor and Susan Gehlbach

Baptismal anniversaries: Martha Hartwig, Cyndi Ruhnau, Geri Zaretzke (3/30); Amanda DiPuma (3/31); Ava Damato, Linda Milos (4/1); Selah Gierach (4/2); Chase Galles, Norah Galles, Jackie Klug (4/4).

Wedding anniversaries: Randy and Pam Kirk (4/3).

The sick: Judy Noennig who is hospitalized; Bob Corso recovering after hospitalization; Sandy Lueck in treatment for weakened heart; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy's niece) slowly recovering from a fractured skull; Sharon Murphy recovering from knee replacement surgery; Marion Ruhbusch undergoing rehab.

In cancer treatment: Bob Rothe, in ongoing treatment to manage stage 4 prostate cancer; Michael Piper (Bob Piper's brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O'Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Traci Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

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

Hymn of the Week

“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (Stanzas 1-2)

438

Looking forward to the Feast of The Resurrection

April 5, 2026

Hymns: 475, 925, 458, 461, 633, 457, 481

Acts 10:34-43: Peter testified in the house of the Gentile Cornelius that God raised up Jesus from the dead to be the Savior of all people. The preaching of the Gospel declares that God shows no partiality. To Jesus, the Christ, all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins. The apostles were eyewitnesses of the death and resurrection of Jesus, that they might bear witness before the nations that He is the Christ and the Savior of all people: Jesus is Lord of all.

Colossians 3:1-4: We were raised with Christ in our baptism and we wait in great expectation for the fulfillment of our baptism when Christ returns in glory and our bodies come forth from the grave to immortality and incorruptibility. In the meantime, we are called by the Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection to “seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” The baptismal life puts to death the sins of the flesh which are so readily apart of life in this world, and looks forward in hope to the glory that will be ours in Christ. Because of your baptism, the things of this world have no claim on us: “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Matthew 28:1-10: The Lord's atonement for sin in His death upon the cross shook the whole of creation with a great earthquake and brought life and immortality to light in the resurrection of the dead. Sin is atoned for and life and salvation spring forth from Jesus' saving work. The angel in brilliant white vestments announced the message of salvation in the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection from the dead! This message is feared by those who do not believe and it is the source of the greatest comfort for those who do believe. “Do not be afraid” the angel declared, “Jesus who was crucified is risen as He said!” The Lord was faithful to His Word. “Go quickly and tell His disciples...Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.” The Lord's resurrection from the dead is the concrete expression of our forgiveness and salvation. There is no greater message of comfort than the Lord's resurrection from the dead, because it means that salvation is absolutely guaranteed for those who believe. The message of the Gospel is true, the message of the Gospel saves, and that is why at the heart of the Lord's resurrection is the ongoing preaching of Christ's victory over sin, death, and hell.