

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Feast of the Resurrection
 April 5 through April 12, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Holy Spirit and the Resurrection of Our Lord — During this week of the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we also meditate upon the Third Article of the Creed. It is the Holy Spirit who brings Jesus' victory over death to us through the sweet message of the forgiveness of sins. By this Word, sins are forgiven, faith is created, and we are raised up by the Spirit of God to walk in newness of life. Jesus gave up the Holy Spirit when He died upon the cross and in the upper room He breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples when He said, "Peace be with You!" The message of Jesus' peace and forgiveness is the message of the Holy Spirit by which we are continually renewed in faith and life. This same Holy Spirit will raise us from the dead, with Jesus, on the Last Day. By the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Word and Sacraments of Christ we will forever enjoy the resurrection of the body and the life-everlasting.

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: Christ Is Himself the Joy of All, the Sun that Warms and Lights Us

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Colossians 3:1-3

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Psalms 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 16: Thanks be to You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter sufferings, Your shameful death, and Your joyous resurrection. Enlighten our eyes to see in You the way to life. Uphold us by Your truth so that we do not fall into self-righteous blindness, idolatry, and false worship. Preserve us in the true faith to eternal 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	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	136, 117

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord: Matthew 28:1-10	Colossians 3:1-4
Monday	Easter Monday: The Emmaus Disciples—Luke 24:13-35	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
Tuesday	Easter Tuesday: The Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:36-49	Acts 13:26-33
Wednesday	Easter Wednesday: The Resurrection Catch—John 21:1-14	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Thursday	Jesus Reinstates Peter—John 21:15-25	Colossians 3:1-7
Friday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-18	1 Corinthians 15:12-25
Saturday	Easter 2: Acts 5:29-42	1 Peter 1:3-9

Catechism: The Creed—the Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

First Grade +

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.
On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead,
and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Resurrection of Our Lord

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Easter Monday

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; 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 Easter Tuesday

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; 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.

Collect for Easter Wednesday

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; 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
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord's Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Karen Frerking (4/5); Verla Gatchell (4/7); Paul Woehrmann (4/8); Nicola Giordano (4/9); Mindy Liesener (4/10); Jennifer Scheler (4/11).

Wedding anniversaries: James and Gayle Cardo (4/11).

The sick: 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, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Reed Brown (Rosie Kopling's brother-in-law).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Christ Is Arisen”

459

Looking forward to the Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Hymns: 941, 471, 640, 741, 480, 484

Acts 5:29-42: The Apostle Peter gives testimony and clear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the Father's right hand, “to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

1 Peter 1:3-9: In a wonderful hymn of praise, the Apostle Peter encourages us to rejoice in the promise of our Baptism that the inheritance of our salvation is kept secure for us in heaven. The Lord will preserve us through the fiery trials of persecution and Christian suffering until that day in which we all enjoy the inexpressible joy of heaven that will not be taken away from us. Though our faith is tested by fire, it is tested that it might be refined until we receive the “end of our faith”—the very “salvation of our souls.”

John 20:19-31: It is in Jesus' first resurrection appearance in the upper room that He ordained His disciples “apostles” saying, “Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” As Jesus spoke these words He said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” The promise of the Holy Spirit is given to every minister of the Gospel in so far as he is faithful to the Word of Christ. Wherever Jesus' Word is preached, there is the Spirit of God “working faith when and where He pleases,” forgiving the sins of repentant sinners and withholding forgiveness from the unrepentant. The purpose of the Apostolic Word is defined by John in his Gospel: “these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (vs.31).