

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*For the Second Week of Easter*

*April 12 through April 19, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Left-Hand Kingdom**—The civil governance is sometimes called the “left-hand kingdom of God” where He rules and protects man in his external relationships through government and the force of law. The “left-hand kingdom” is to be distinguished from the “right-hand kingdom” (the Church) through which God rules the heart by the call to repentance and the Word of the Gospel. We should still understand the left-hand kingdom as that which God has established.

## 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: “Peace Be with You!” Christ Is Risen!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Job 19:25-26

I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth;  
and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.

### Psalm 148 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on Psalm 148:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You most humble and hearty thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all mankind. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for Your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us that due sense of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Let us walk before You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life and enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Your infinite mercy in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	1, 2
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	3

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 2: The Lord Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31</b>	
Monday	The Resurrection—Matthew 28:1-15	Exodus 15:1-18
Tuesday	The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-27	Acts 10:34-43
Wednesday	Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35	Acts 13:26-33
Thursday	Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49	Acts 3:11-21
Friday	Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1—2:2
Saturday	Easter 3: Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-25

### Of Citizens

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

What does God’s Word say of citizens? Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.	First Grade + Matthew 22:21
It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.	Third Grade + Romans 13:5-7
I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.	<u>First</u> Grade + Titus 3:1
Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.	<u>Fourth</u> Grade + 1 Peter 2:13-14

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

**Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter**

*Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:** Grayson Palmer (4/12); Josh McComack, Heide Schaff, Judy Woehrmann (4/13); Savannah LaFore, Sarah May, Grace Palmer (4/15); Tyler Haga, Steven Haga (4/16); Shirley Weber (4/17); Landon Carus (4/18).

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

**Those Serving in the Armed Forces**

**The sick:** Bob Corso recovering after hospitalization; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy's niece) undergoing surgery for complications following a head injury; Sharon Murphy recovering from knee replacement surgery; Marion Ruhbusch undergoing rehab.

**In cancer treatment:** Bob Rothe, Melissa Brendel, Michael Piper (Bob Piper's brother), 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:** Rachel and Kevin Ruehle, who suffered a miscarriage at 20 weeks.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"O Sons and Daughters of the King" (stanzas 1-3 and 8)**

**471**

**Looking forward to the Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 19, 2026**

**Hymns:** 469, 483, 597, 620, 476, 477

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41:** The Apostle Peter's sermon on Pentecost clearly proclaimed the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for salvation and called his listeners to faith in Christ. After his sermon he directed them to repent of their sin and be baptized for forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promises of Holy Baptism are extended to every sinner who is afar off from God, adults and children alike. The faithful preaching of the Gospel culminated in over 3,000 souls becoming Christians through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

**1 Peter 1:17-25:** We were not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, and we were born again by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God. Because of this we live lives that are purified and sanctified in Christ that we might live "in sincere love of the brethren" loving one another "fervently with a pure heart." In this way, Christians honor their Redeemer and confess the riches of His grace in their lives.

**Luke 24:13-35:** Two disciples of Jesus walked from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus on Easter Sunday afternoon. When they started their journey they knew that Jesus had been crucified, but they did not yet believe in the resurrection, even though there were reports that He had risen from the dead. The resurrected Lord Jesus appeared to them on that road and walked with them to Emmaus, but He prevented them from recognizing Him so that He might bring them to faith in the resurrection by opening up the Old Testament Scriptures to them. "Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" and that it was "necessary according to the Scriptures" that the Christ suffer for sins and rise from the dead. Jesus' catechesis of these disciples led them to finally see Him in the breaking of the bread. So it is for us: faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word is the only way we will truly "see Jesus" and come to faith in Him. This kind of faithful preaching and teaching always leads us to "see" and receive our Savior in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.