

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Third Week of Easter  
 April 19 through April 26, 2026

**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 both 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

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: By the Holy Scriptures We See Jesus Rightly!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Matthew 10:32-33**

Whoever confesses Me before men,  
 him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.  
 But whoever denies Me before men,  
 him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

**Psalms 116:1-14 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on Psalm 116:** Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
Evening	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 3: The Emmaus Disciples—Luke 24:13-35</b>	
Monday	The Nobleman’s Son Is Healed—John 4:43-54	1 John 1:1-4
Tuesday	The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:52–8:12	Psalm 36
Wednesday	Jesus Is the Light of the World—John 8:12-30	1 John 1:5–2:2
Thursday	The Truth Shall Make You Free—John 8:31-41	1 John 2:3-11
Friday	Jesus Is Confronted by the Unbelieving Jews—John 8:42-59	1 John 2:12-17
Saturday	<b>St. Mark, Evangelist: Mark 16:14-20</b>	<b>2 Timothy 4:5-18</b>
	Easter 4: Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25

**The Catechism: Table of Duties—To Husbands** (Young children review the primary texts of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 the Third Sunday of Easter**

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Collect for the Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist**

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through 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:** Pat Schmitz (4/19); Mike Clark (4/21); Rev. Gary Gehlbach, Jason Hoffmann, Jim Frerking (4/23); John Thoni, Kevin Ruehle (4/24); Fritz Theilacker, Joseph Schneider (4/25).

**Wedding anniversaries:** Robert and Sandra Elmer (4/24).

**Those Serving in the Armed Forces**

**The sick:** Dane Petersen recovering from a seizure; Diane Knappe undergoing knee replacement surgery; Doris Erickson 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.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death”**

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

**April 26, 2026**

**Hymns: 602, 753, 709, 710, 641, 569, 692**

**Acts 2:42-47:** St. Luke describes the Divine Service of preaching and the Lord’s Supper when he declares that those who received the Gospel were baptized and “they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” The well-spring of the Church’s life has not changed since the time of Pentecost. Sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. They are baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and faith. The baptized faithful then continue to gather around the apostles’ doctrine in the preaching of the Gospel which creates the fellowship of faith and the Holy Spirit in the hearts. This fellowship is celebrated and nurtured at the Lord’s Table, the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers of the faithful for one another and for all those in need. The Church of Jesus Christ lives from this Divine Service each week, which is the center of our life together and by which the Lord continues to minister His grace to us.

**1 Peter 2:19-25:** That Jesus commended Himself to God the Father in faith in His suffering is the pattern of our faith and life as Christians. This is what Christian vocation is all about: walking by faith in the Gospel of Christ when we suffer and struggle with sin, just as Jesus relied upon His Father in His suffering. Faith in Christ is not only the source of salvation; it is also the source of freedom and comfort in our earthly vocations.

**John 10:1-10:** There is no salvation outside the holy Christian Church because the Church is where Christ is forgiving sins and bestowing His salvation through the preaching of the Gospel and the holy Sacraments. The Church is described as a sheepfold. Jesus is the door into that sheepfold, which is to say, that He is the only way to salvation by grace alone through His death and resurrection for sinners. Sinners cannot enter into the sheepfold of salvation in any other way than by grace alone through the door, which is Christ Jesus. Similarly, the only pastor, or undershepherd, who is a true and faithful shepherd, is the one who also enters the Church by grace alone and who also preaches only Christ alone. The true sheep of Christ only recognize the voice of the Gospel of His grace. Every other voice of “man centered salvation” is the voice of a stranger, robber, and thief who has come to snatch the sheep from the sheepfold of Christ’s Church.