

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Fourth Week of Easter

April 26 through May 3, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Table of Duties Concerning Wives and Husbands—The passages of Holy Scripture in the Table of Duties concern the offices we have been given as Christians where our faith in Christ is lived out in this world. There is often great confusion about these two holy offices. Husbands are the head of their wives, but their headship is one of sacrificial love, teaching the Word of God, and forgiving sin. They are to be considerate of their wives who are placed in an office that requires them to submit to their husbands. Husbands are not to lord their authority over their wives. This is always a temptation for any Christian husband. Wives are to understand that their office of submission is patterned after Christ's bride the Church. They are to expect their husbands to love them, teach them, and forgive them. Their beauty is not in outward adornment, but in the reception of their husband's love. "This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands..." It is a beautiful and blessed thing when husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and when wives receive that love and trust in it.

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: I Am the Good Shepherd!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 11:25-26a

**I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.**

Psalm 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 23: O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love You laid down Your life for us Your sheep. We give You praise and glory for Your unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You through the valley of the shadow of death. Deliver us from all our foes until Your whole flock shall be gathered about You in the resurrection on the last day, 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	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 4: "I Am the Door of the Sheepfold"—John 10:1-10	
Monday	The Way, the Truth, and the Life—John 14:1-6	Isaiah 45:15-21
Tuesday	I Am in the Father and the Father in Me—John 14:7-11	Isaiah 45:22-25
Wednesday	If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments—John 14:12-18	Isaiah 48:12-21
Thursday	Fellowship with the Holy Trinity—John 14:19-26	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Friday	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles: John 14:1-14	Ephesians 2:19-22
Saturday	Easter 5: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10

The Catechism: Table of Duties—To Wives (All review the primary texts of the 7th and 8th commandments.)

What does God's Word say of wives? Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.	Third Grade + Ephesians 5:22
[This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.] They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:5-6

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

Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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 the Feast of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

Almighty God, Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; 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: Nicole Aidich (4/26); David Uttenreither, Valerie Zalewski (4/27); Matthew Fabrizio (4/28); Rachel Frerking (4/29); Laura Knoerr, Christy Murphree, Levi Ruehle (4/30); Clint Duessler 5/1); Andrew Stauber, Mark Thoni (5/2).

Wedding anniversaries: Mark and Holly Schneider (4/26); Pat and Laura Schmitz (4/28); Mike and Angie Clark (2/29).

Marriage: We, with Bob and Cheryl Piper, give thanks to God for the joy and blessings that He has granted to their son, Aaron, and his bride, Ellysa, joined in Holy Matrimony yesterday.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

The sick: Jackie Klug, hospitalized; Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) recovering from 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 in Hospice Care: Sid Franklin.

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

Hymn of the Week

“For Me to Live Is Jesus” (Stanzas 1-3)

742

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Hymns: 726, 411, 633, 526, 482, 829, 722

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60: Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was put to death because he called his countrymen to repentance and preached Christ the crucified as the true Messiah of Israel. He was rejected, but his martyrdom gave testimony to the Savior who was willingly martyred for us. The Church continues to pray for all faithful confessors that they remain faithful.

1 Peter 2:2-10: Why should we desire the pure milk of God’s Word? Answer: That by it we might grow in our holy faith. At the center of the Word of God is Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone of our faith. The Church is a holy nation of priests who trust in their Savior and serve each other in sacrifices of love. We are on a pilgrimage through this world to the Promised Land of eternal life and salvation with Christ. Our lives have a unique and peculiar character that is shaped by the free grace and mercy of God in Christ. Because of this we love our enemies, pray for our persecutors, and live faithfully in this world, especially for the benefit of those who do not deserve it. We do this because this is what the Lord has done for us and it is His love, received in faith, that shapes our lives with others in this world. This “peculiar” characteristic of the Royal priesthood of all believers is one of the ways we “proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light” before a world that does not believe.

John 14:1-14: Jesus’ words in the upper room were filled with comfort: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you ...I am the way, the truth, and the life ...whatever you ask in My name, that I will do.” Faith lives upon the promises of God in Jesus. We draw our comfort and strength of life from the Gospel. Jesus’ promises are what give us hope and the certainty of salvation because they teach us to rely upon Him and not ourselves. He is “the way, the truth, and the life” because He has fulfilled the Old Testament Torah for us (often called the Way) in His death and resurrection. He prepared the mansions of heaven for us through His faithful fulfilling of the Torah on our behalf that we might enjoy eternal fellowship with Him.