

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Fifth Week of Easter
 May 3 through May 10, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Table of Duties: To Parents and Children—“It would be well to preach to parents on the nature of their office, how they should treat those committed to their authority... God does not want to have knaves or tyrants in this office and responsibility nor does He assign them this honor (that is, power and authority to govern) merely to receive homage. Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office, not only to provide for the material support of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but especially to bring them up to the praise and honor of God... If we want qualified and capable men for both civil and spiritual leadership, we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and mankind. We must not think only of amassing money and property for them. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed He does daily. But He has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to His will; otherwise God would have no need of father and mother. Therefore let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God, and if they are gifted to give them opportunity to learn and study so that they may be of service wherever they are needed.” (4th Commandment, Large Catechism)

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 Way, the Truth, and the Life!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction;
 for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Psalm 146 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 146: Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Easter 5: “I Am the Way...”—John 14:1-14	
Monday	The Peace of Christ—John 14:27-31	Isaiah 26:1-12
Tuesday	I am the Vine—John 15:1-8	Jer. 9:23-24; 10:11-16
Wednesday	As the Father Loved Me, I Also Have Loved You—John 15:9-17	Jeremiah 31:2-9
Thursday	The World's Hatred—John 15:18-25	Psalm 9
Friday	The Comforter in Persecution—John 15:26–16:4	Isaiah 59:17-21
Saturday	Easter 6: Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:13-22

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Parents and Children

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

<p>What does God's Word say to parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:4</p>
<p>What does God's Word say to children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”</p>	<p>First Grade + Ephesians 6:1 Second Grade + Ephesians 6:2-3</p>

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

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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...”

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.*

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Vivian Schneider (5/4); Christine Haga, Sharon Murphy (5/9).

Wedding anniversaries: Jack and Debra Christopherson (5/5); Doug and Pat Pom (5/9).

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

The sick: Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) recovering from surgery for complications following a head injury; Marion Ruhbusch, recently moved into a nursing home.

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.

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Jackie Klug.

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

Hymn of the Week

“You Are the Way: through You Alone”

526

Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

Hymns: 462, 834, 821, 631, 501, 468

Acts 17:16-31: *Before the Greek philosophers in Athens, Paul testifies to the only true God. The only true God is not made in the image of men by human hands, but is rather the creator, source, and preserver of all things. Though Paul’s testimony before the philosophers did not seem to produce many converts, it is always necessary to confess the truth. Such confessions of faith always honor God because they are the truth, even if few believe it. Paul clearly upholds the Christian confession of faith that there is only one God and that all mankind needs the salvation that Jesus, the Son of God, came to bring through His suffering and death upon the cross.*

1 Peter 3:13-22: *Christ’s patient suffering and death for us in love is the source of our strength and peace when we are wronged or suffer persecution. Living by faith in Jesus’ words gives us a clear conscience and freedom when we suffer wrong. Praying for our enemies and those who persecute us, being faithful in our calling toward others, especially when they don’t deserve it, bears witness to the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ for other sinners who are in need of His mercy the same as we are.*

John 14:15-21: *What is it “to keep the commandments or the Word of the Lord Jesus”? “Keeping” is a word that describes the nature of faith. Faith clings to Christ. Faith trusts His Word. Faith relies upon everything He says. Faith draws its life and strength from Jesus’ Words. “His commandments” are not burdensome, like the Law is burdensome, because the “commandments” of the Lord Jesus invite us to trust in Him and to live from what He commands. Here are some of His commands: “It is finished! Your salvation is complete! Your sins are forgiven! Peace be with you! Take, eat, this is My body. Take and drink, this is My blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” We love Christ and cling to His Words and commandments, because they give us life and salvation. Even His command to “love one another as I have loved you” is not burdensome, because it is the invitation to live by faith in His love and sacrifice for us in our love and forgiveness toward one another. Jesus’ words and commands always give freedom to the conscience and heart of a Christian who trusts in Him.*