

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*For the Sixth Week of Easter*

*May 10 through May 17, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Table of Duties: To Workers of All Kinds**—How many employees or workers would call themselves "slaves"? Not too many. If one considered himself a slave, it would not be a complimentary term. Yet "slave" is a term that is often used in the New Testament of our Lord. For Him it is not derogatory. It is a term that describes the nature of His office as one who has come into the world to serve no one but others. He came to serve the Father in love and sinful man in love to the point of dying upon the cross. He had no thought for Himself or His own protection or welfare. He is the ultimate "worker" and in His work we see the true nature of Christian work. We "work" as Christians, not to serve ourselves, but to serve others in love. The characteristic of our work is that it is done for others, even if they do not appreciate it. Selfless love is what motivated Jesus and it is that love to which we are called by faith in the Gospel. Jesus' selfless love and service to us is reflected in the Bible Verse for the week: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Since this is Jesus' confession about Himself, we should not be adverse to have ourselves called slaves.

## 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: If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments.

#### Invocation

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

#### Apostles' Creed

#### Verse: Mark 10:45

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

#### Psalm 66:8-20 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on Psalm 66:** Thanks and praise be to You, O God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

#### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Easter 6: "I Will Not Leave You Orphans"—John 14:15-21</b>	
Monday	The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Tuesday	Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy—John 16:16-23	Jeremiah 31:10-14
Wednesday	Ask and You Will Receive—John 16:23b-33	1 Chronicles 16:8-13
Thursday	<b>Ascension of Our Lord: Acts 1:1-14</b>	<b>2 Kings 2:1-15</b>
Friday	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-10	1 Chronicles 16:14-22
Saturday	Jesus Prays for the Apostles—John 17:11-19	1 Chronicles 16:23-30

#### The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Workers of All Kinds

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

What does God's Word say to workers of all kinds? Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:5
Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.	Second Grade + Ephesians 6:6
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,	Third Grade + Ephesians 6:7
because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.	Fourth Grade + Ephesians 6:8

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

### Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 the Ascension of Our Lord

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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:** David Haga (5/10); Pat Pom (5/11); Rev. Peter Bender (5/12); Doris Erickson (5/15); Kevin Larson (5/16)

**Wedding anniversaries:** Mark and Mary Kay Schudlach – 40<sup>th</sup> (5/11), Steve and Sandy Lueck (5/15).

#### Those Serving in the Armed Forces

**The sick:** Polly Joubert undergoing knee replacement surgery on Tuesday; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) recovering from surgery for complications following a head injury.

**In cancer treatment:** Shirley Radeck (Melody Ruhbusch’s cousin) entering the final stage of metastatic breast cancer; Bob Rothe, 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:** Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach mourning the loss of their unborn baby, and with it the ability to conceive children in the future.

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

#### Hymn of the Week

#### “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns”

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### Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

**Hymns:** 490, 754, 766, 773, 874, 479

**Acts 1:12-26:** At His ascension, Jesus instructed the eleven to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They had been called by Jesus to be eye-witnesses of His resurrection and to speak His Word on His behalf in the world. Peter clearly describes the qualifications for an apostle, that he must have been with the disciples “from the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection” (vs. 21-22). Since Judas Iscariot had committed suicide, the eleven felt compelled to elect a successor to fill his office. Two names were put forward and Matthias was elected by the casting of lots. From that day forward, Matthias was numbered with the Twelve and took part in the apostolic ministry.

**1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11:** Christians are encouraged to rejoice when they suffer for the name of Jesus. Such suffering not only testifies that we belong to Christ, but when we bear it patiently it is a bold confession of our faith in Christ whose very sufferings are the source of our salvation. In love He suffered for us and for our salvation, and in love we bear suffering and persecution to testify of His great love for others.

**John 17:1-11:** In the Sunday between Jesus’ Ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we hear the words of Jesus in His “High Priestly Prayer” to the Father for the ministry of His Apostles and for the future of the Church. This prayer signifies the very content of the prayer Jesus is still praying. He continues to intercede for us today in the same language of this wonderful prayer: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. <sup>6</sup> “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup> “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me that they may be one as We are.” (NKJV)