

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 through May 5, 2024*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Learn the Words First! Understanding Takes a Lifetime—"First teach them the words, then teach them what they mean' is an axiom for Luther's approach to catechesis. Baptized children learn the language of their heavenly Father in the same way all children learn a language. They hear their father and mother speaking to them over and over and over again, until they begin to speak the language themselves. They begin to use the words that they have heard, even before they fully understand what the words mean. So it is for the baptized and the catechumen. We hear the Word of God over and over and over again until it becomes imbedded in our hearts. We begin to hear, learn, and use words before we fully understand what those words mean. In fact, learning to believe and understand those words is the lifelong process of catechesis. This process, like faith itself, begins with hearing and receiving the Word in the heart. Only in this way does the Word of God become our own word in our confessions of the faith and in our prayers. If we wait to teach the language of the Scriptures and catechism until people know what the words mean, or are 'old enough' to understand them, then we will never use the words or teach them anything."—Excerpted from the Introduction to Lutheran Catechesis, p. 3

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.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse of the week: Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 150 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: 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	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

The Catechism: The Fifth through Eighth Commandments

<p><i>What is the Fifth Commandment?</i> You shall not murder.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>What is the Sixth Commandment?</i> You shall not commit adultery.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>What is the Seventh Commandment?</i> You shall not steal.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What is the Eighth Commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.</p>	Preschool +

Readings for the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	"I Am the Vine"—John 15:1-8	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday	The Exodus—Exodus 12:31-42	Lev. 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday	Israel Journeys to the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:9	Lev. 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday	The Lord Fights for Israel—Exodus 14:10-31	Lev. 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19	Lev. 24:1-23	Luke 12:54-13:17
Friday	Bitter Water Made Sweet—Exodus 15:22-27	Lev. 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Lev. 26:21-33, 39-44	Luke 14:1-24

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the week of 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

- 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 sacraments 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 at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Peggy Wahlstedt, Theresa Rohloff, Cindy Witherspoon, Cliff Johnson, Joseph Menendez, Darin Mitchell, Liz Lovato, Melissa Rodgers, Connie Smith, Ella Littlefield, Tommy Rodhe, Gordon Munson, Kenneth Biehle, Henry Ostermann, Dante Pellegrino, Collene Pellegrino, Bobbie Sherrod, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Angel Menendez, and the Martin, Courtney, Bradshaw, Herbel, and Menendez families

Our Shut-ins

Emily Snipes, Deena Strang, Coy Warfield

Peace and Comfort

Blessings and Thanksgiving

Bobbie Sherrod, who is now 2½ years cancer free

Expectant Mothers

April Hill, Esther Schielke

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

Seminarians

Justin Chester, Dan Hollister, Tanner Sawall, John Schober

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

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

Hymn of Week

"These Are the Holy Ten Commands"

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