
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Resurrection of Our Lord
March 29-April 4, 2016*

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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

EASTER GREETING

M Christ is risen!

G He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57

L "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

G "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

L The sting of death is sin,

G and the power of sin is the law.

L But thanks be to God!

G He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Morning	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	121,6	25,91	27,51	126,102	107,130	31,143	42,32

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism*, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



PSALM PRAYER

L Lord Jesus, we grieve the unbelief and unfaithfulness that is found throughout Your Church. Restore Your Church in this world that we, brought to the sorrow of contrition and repentance, might rejoice again in Your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM

Table of Duties — To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

L What does God's Word say to Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers?	<i>First Grade +</i> 1 Timothy 3:2
G A pastor must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,	
G not given to much wine, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.	<i>Second Grade +</i> 1 Timothy 3:3,4
G He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.	<i>Third Grade +</i> 1 Timothy 3:6
G He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.	<i>Fourth Grade +</i> Titus 1:9

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
Tuesday	Parables about the Kingdom of God (<i>Matthew</i>)	Matthew 13:1-53	John 15-16
Wednesday	Parables about the Kingdom of God (<i>Mark & Luke</i>)	Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18	John 17
Thursday	First Lesson for the 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12, 17-32	John 18
Friday	Second Lesson for the 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Revelation 1:4-18	John 19
Saturday	Gospel for the 2 nd Sunday of Easter	John 20:19-31	John 20-21
Sunday	The calming of a storm	Matthew 8:18, 23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25	Acts 1
Monday	The healing of a demon-possessed man	Matthew 8:28-9:1a; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39	Acts 2

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord:

L Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Tuesday: For the Church in our nation and throughout the world; for the congregations, clergy, laity, officers, teachers and students of theology of our synod; for church bodies of our fellowship around the globe; for organizations for men's, women's, and youth work. For children of the Church; for Christian education; for parish schools; for teachers and assistants.*
- Wednesday: For families, children, relatives, and friends; for Christian marriages; for the nurture of children in the gospel. For young people and young people's work in the church. For single people and their labor in the Lord. For households; for the men and women of the congregation.*
- Thursday: For our country and its people; for repentance, faith, love, honesty, and obedience to law; for unity, justice, and peace; for those in authority: the president, the congress, the governor, city officials, and all those who make and administer our laws; for our armed forces at home and abroad; for good citizenship. For the commerce, industry, and agriculture in our land. For all useful arts; for the right use of science and technology. For enemies; for the indifferent; for the lapsed.*
- Friday: For the suffering; for the poor; for the hungry and cold; for refugees; for prisoners; for the oppressed; for the mentally ill; for the despairing. For social workers; for chaplains; for doctors and nurses; for hospitals and other relief agencies. For those in the congregation who suffer: the aged, the sick, the dying, the bereaved, and the lonely.*
- Saturday: For the services tomorrow: for worshipers, listeners, and communicants. For other congregations, their services and ministers. Remembrance of the departed; preparation of the Church for the coming of Christ; remembrance of the brevity of life and of judgment to come; prayer for a blessed death.*
- Sunday: For the holy Christian Church and the congregation; that the blessing of worship and preaching may continue through the week; for the practice of family worship; for the baptized and communicants; for those absent from worship.*
- Monday: For the missions of the Church; for the proclamation of the gospel in all the world; for new and established churches; for organizations that promote and support missions and missionaries; for the raising up of leaders at home and abroad; for zeal in missions at home and open doors throughout the world; for oneness in Spirit and brotherly love. For fellow workers in the parish: Sunday school and Lutheran elementary school teachers, altar guild, musicians, elders, deaconesses, trustees, elected officers, leaders, and volunteers of every kind in the congregation. For one's own vocation and daily work; for the unemployed.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Spencer Hansen, as he remembers his baptism this week, that he treasure the grace shown to him when he was made a child of God through those precious waters.

Pam Riggins and Aaron Scott, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord grant to them another year of blessing and grace.

Vivian Alexander, as she remembers her confirmation this week, that she continue to be fight the good fight and live as a redeemed child of God.

LORD'S PRAYER

G Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory ☩ forever and ever. Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

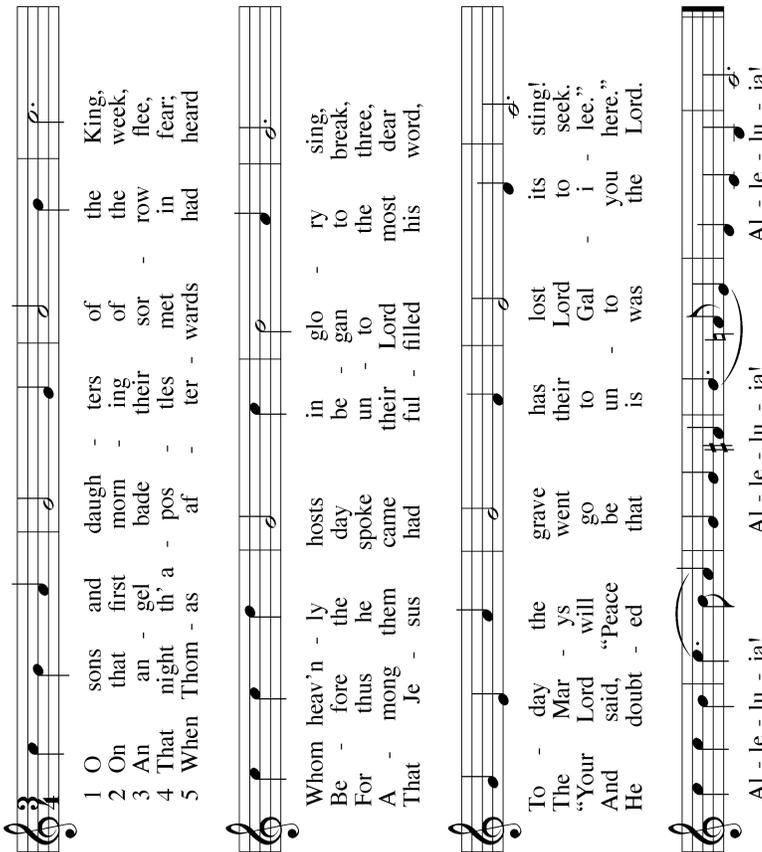
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

O Sons and Daughters of the King | CW 165

EASTER

165 O Sons and Daughters of the King



6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "My hands, my feet, my body see;
 And doubt not, but believe in me."
 Alleluia!

8 Blessed are they that have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been;
 In life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied:
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
 To God your hearts and voices raise
 In laud and jubilee and praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluia) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615, alt.

² Luther, in his Small Catechism, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"