
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter — Good Shepherd Sunday
April 12-18, 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: Jesus Feeds His Sheep

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Psalm 118:8

L It is better to trust in the LORD

G than to put confidence in man.

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	1,2	5	8,9	10	14,15	18	19,20
Evening	3	4,6	7	11,12	13	16,17	21

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord, teach us to believe that when You are angry because of sin that it is for our good, that we might return to You in true repentance and fervent faith in Your mercy and loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

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.'"



<p>L What does God’s Word say of Civil Government?</p>	
<p>G Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.</p>	<p>First Grade + Romans 13:1</p>
<p>G Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves.</p>	<p>Second Grade + Romans 13:2</p>
<p>G For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Romans 13:4</p>

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	The healing of a woman and the raising of Jairus’ daughter	Matthew 9:1,18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56	Acts 3-4
Wednesday	The healing of a blind man and a demoniac	Matthew 9:27-34	Acts 5
Thursday	First Lesson for the 4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 13:15,16a,26-33	Acts 6-7
Friday	Second Lesson for the 4 th Sunday of Easter	Revelation 7:9-17	Acts 8
Saturday	Gospel for the 4 th Sunday of Easter	John 10:22-30	Acts 9
Sunday	The final rejection of Jesus at Nazareth	Matthew 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6a	Acts 10-11
Monday	Christ’s third tour of Galilee and mission instructions to the twelve	Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1,5-11:1; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6	Acts 12

PRAYERS

Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Easter:

L O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father’s house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Prayer for Civil Government

L Heavenly Father, give us civil authorities who will serve with integrity and faithfulness for the maintenance of justice, the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of all those who do well. Grant all

Christians faith in Your gracious providence, so that we might honor the civil authorities and contribute to the common welfare of our nation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Jaxon Pasbrig and Harlan Butterfield, as they celebrate their birthdays, that the Lord grant to them another year of blessing and grace.

Everliegh Pasbrig and Logan Hansen, as they and their families remember their baptisms this week, that they and their families treasure the grace shown to them when they were made children of God through those precious waters.

Duane and Kathy Lange, George and Dee Scott, and Rich and Sandy Harp, as they celebrated their anniversary, that God would continue to bless their marriage according to his will.

Brent Meyer, Marlene Hansen, and Pastor Seelow, as they remember their confirmations, that they continue to cherish the truths of God's Word they learned as children and continue to strive to fight the good fight of faith.

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 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | CW 375

375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, A



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der
you, dear Lord, be - side me; Your rod and staff my
ban - quet here be - stow - ing; Your oil of wel - come,



I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.
gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
my de - light; My cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

6 And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.
Tune: ST. COLUMBA (87 87 Iambic) Irish melody, c. 18th century, 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.'"