
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 19-25, 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 is the Good and Faithful Shepherd

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

G I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

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	22	26,27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	23,24	25	28,29	31	34	36	38

PSALM PRAYER

L O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love, You laid down Your life for Your sheep, we give You praise and glory for this unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You, and by You be delivered from all our foes, until the whole flock shall be gathered in heaven about You, who lives and reigns with the Father 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 Citizens?</p>	<p><i>First Grade +</i></p>
<p>G Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.</p>	<p>Matthew 22:21</p>
<p>G It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.</p>	<p><i>Third Grade +</i> Romans 13:5-7</p>
<p>G I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.</p>	<p><i>Second Grade +</i> 1 Timothy 2:1-3</p>
<p>G Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.</p>	<p><i>First Grade +</i> Titus 3:1</p>
<p>G Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.</p>	<p><i>Fourth Grade +</i> 1 Peter 2:13,14</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	Herod Antipas’s agitation	Matthew 14:1,2; Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9	Acts 13-14
Wednesday	The feeding of the five thousand	Matthew 14:13b-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10b-17; John 6:1-13	Acts 15
Thursday	First Lesson for the 5 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 13:44-52	Acts 16
Friday	Second Lesson for the 5 th Sunday of Easter	Revelation 21:1-6	Acts 17
Saturday	Gospel for the 5 th Sunday of Easter	John 13:31-35	Acts 18-19
Sunday	Christ's rejection of political kingship	Matthew 14:22,23; Mark 6:45,46; John 6:14-17a	Acts 20-21
Monday	Jesus walking on water	Matthew 14:24-33; Mark 6:47-52; John 6:17b-21a	Acts 22-23

PRAYERS

Prayer for the 5th Sunday of Easter:

L O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Prayer of a Christian Citizen

L Merciful Father, grant us faith to pray for the civil authorities and to trust that You will accomplish Your good and gracious will through them. Teach us to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness and to be ready to do whatever is good in service to others in our community and 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.*

