
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 3–9, 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: *That We May Be One in Christ*

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

John 15:5

G "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

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	60,61	65	66	68	71	73	75,76
Evening	62	63,64	67,70	69	72	74	77

PSALM PRAYER

L 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.

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.'"



L What does God’s Word say to Wives?	
G Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master.	First Grade + Ephesians 5:22
G You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.	Kindergarten+ 1 Peter 3:6

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 deaf man and many others Matthew 15:29-31; Mark 7:31-37	Romans 7
Wednesday	The feeding of the four thousand Matthew 15:32-39a; Mark 8:1-9	Romans 8
Thursday	First Lesson for the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord Acts 1:1-11	Romans 9
Friday	Second Lesson for the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord Ephesians 1:16-23	Romans 10-11
Saturday	Gospel for the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord Luke 24:44-53	Romans 12
Sunday	Jesus’ second brief return to Galilee Matthew 15:39b-16:4a; Mark 8:10-12	Romans 13-14
Monday	Warning and surprise Matthew 16:4b-12; Mark 8:13-21	Romans 15-16

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Ascension of Our Lord:

L Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God’s right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Prayer for Wives

L O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion all Christian women into wives made in the image of Your bride the Church. Teach them to submit to their husbands as to You, their Lord and Savior. Give them hearts that trust in Your Word, honor their husbands, and look to them for love and spiritual headship. Deliver them from all fear and faithlessness. Where their husbands fail them, support them with Your grace and let them find their sufficiency in You. In Your holy name we pray.

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

Rachel Carpenter, Katrina Meyer, Ramiro Harp, Randy Webb, and Aaron Haas, as they celebrate the anniversary of their confirmation, that they continue to remember their vows and that the Lord hold them faithfully in his end to the end.

Delores Adelung, as she recovers from a medical procedure this past week, that the Lord grant her a quick and relatively painless recovery.

A certain friend of the Church, who is struggling with faith, that this individual may be comforted by the promises of God's Word, and that he or she may find peace in the grace shown to them in Baptism.

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 FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | CW 171

ASCENSION

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A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - pos - to - le band Up - on the
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high Lord, to the
 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our

out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un -
 And with his fol - low - ers they see Their Lord as -
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say, "This is his
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see Re - turn - ing
 Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we Shall praise your

to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to you let earth accord.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673-735, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (888-888 with Alleluia) Ausserlesene, Catholische Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623, 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.'"