

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of *Misericordias Domini* (the Third Sunday of Easter)

April 14th through April 20th, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Ultimate Good—Faith in Christ for salvation from sin and death is the ultimate good. This is what God is working for in every circumstance of our lives, even the hardship and adversity: that we might be preserved in faith.

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 use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Jesus Is Our Faithful Shepherd.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Psalm 23 (antiphon v. 6)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: *O Lord Jesus, You are our good and faithful Shepherd. You have laid down Your life to rescue Your sheep. In You we lack nothing. Lead us to the living pastures of Your Holy Word and Sacraments that we might be fed and strengthened to walk through the valley of the shadow of death without fear, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



The Catechism: The Table of Duties—Of Citizens

<p>What does God's Word say of Citizens? Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.</p>	<p>First Grade + Matthew 22:21</p>
<p>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>Third Grade + Romans 13:5-7</p>
<p>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>Second Grade + 1 Tim. 2:1-3</p>
<p>Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.</p>	<p>First Grade + Titus 3:1</p>
<p>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>Fourth Grade + 1 Peter 2:13-14</p>

Prayer of a Christian Citizen: *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. Amen.*

Readings for the week of Misericordias Domini (The Third Sunday of Easter)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Israel Demands a King—1 Samuel 8:1-22	Colossians 1:19-29
Tuesday	Saul Is Chosen to Be King—1 Samuel 9:1-6 (7-9) 10-24	Colossians 2:1-10
Wednesday	Saul Is Anointed King—1 Samuel 9:25—10:16	Colossians 2:11-23
Thursday	Saul Is Proclaimed King—1 Samuel 10:17-27	Colossians 3:1-11
Friday	Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead—1 Samuel 11:1-15	Colossians 3:12-17
Saturday	The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases—Lamentations 3:22-33	1 Peter 2:11-20

Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter:

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Preschool, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day*

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

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

Hymn of the Week *With High Delight Let Us Unite (st. 1)*

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Looking forward to the Week of Jubilate (the Fourth Sunday of Easter)

April 21st 2024

Hymns: 488, 483, 685, 594, 602, 629, 484, 639, 479

Isaiah 40:25-31: *The Christian life of faith knows great suffering as the enemies of the baptized lay siege against our faith. But the Christian life is not lived in defeatism or pessimism, as if God had abandoned us. To be sure, our victory is never measured by worldly standards. Rather, it is a victory that is understood and received on God's terms. Christ has won salvation for us. He has defeated Satan. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Forgiveness of sins is freely given to us by the Word of our Savior. His love has conquered all our enemies. We belong to Him. The faith that is created by shall not be defeated by these enemies because faith finds its strength entirely in the Lord. "But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength...They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (vs. 31).*

1 Peter 2:11-20: *The Apostle warns that you will suffer for holding fast to your Savior. The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come. Though you must experience sorrow for a time, though you must live as strangers in a world that is at enmity with Christ, yet your sorrow will be turned to joy when He returns.*

John 16:16-22: *Jesus describes His suffering and death as "a little while." During this "little while" He goes to the Father upon the cross to offer His lifeblood into death for our sins. This "little while" was filled with great grief for the disciples, but their sorrow was turned to joy in His resurrection from the dead. From this "little while" we learn what is characteristic for us and the Church in this world. The "little while" of Christ's suffering and the lamentation of the disciples corresponds to the "little while" of the Church's and every individual Christian's suffering because of sin and persecution. Nevertheless, this "little while" is short-lived. Our Lord is not only risen from the dead, but He comes to us with His grace and forgiveness to turn our sorrow into joy. There is joy in the Christian life now. We do not have to wait for it until the resurrection on the last day. It is a joy in the midst of the cross of affliction. It is the joy of faith that beholds and receives Christ. It is a joy that finds its delight in Him.*