

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

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

May 4th through May 10th, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week—To Parents and Children in the Table of Duties—“It would be well to preach to parents on the nature of their office, how they should treat those committed to their authority...God does not want to have knaves or tyrants in this office and responsibility nor does he assign them this honor (that is, power and authority to govern) merely to receive homage. Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office, not only to provide for the material support of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but especially to bring them up to the praise and honor of God...If we want qualified and capable men for both civil and spiritual leadership, we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and mankind. We must not think only of amassing money and property for them. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed He does daily. But he has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to His will; otherwise, God would have no need of father and mother. Therefore, let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God, and if they are gifted to give them opportunity to learn and study so that they may be of service wherever they are needed.” (Luther, Fourth Commandment, Large Catechism)

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: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths.

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—To Parents; To Children

What does God's Word say to Parents? Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.	Third Grade+ Ephesians 6:4
What does God's Word say to Children? Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.	First Grade + Ephesians 6:1
“Honor your father and mother” —which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”	Second Grade + Ephesians 6:2-3



Prayer for Parents: Heavenly Father, You have given us the gift of children who are to be brought up in the training and instruction of the Gospel of Your Son. Give to all Christian fathers and mothers the strength and will to teach the Word of God to their children, and to see this responsibility as their most important duty. Deliver them from the temptation to abandon this sacred trust. Grant them faithfulness in their calling as parents, that they might love and care for their children even as You love and care for them in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Children: Heavenly Father, grant Your grace in Christ to all Christian children that they might honor their parents in spite of their failings, and enjoy a long and blessed life according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14	1 Peter 1:3-12
Tuesday	Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25	1 Peter 5:1-11
Wednesday	The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20	Daniel 7:9-14
Thursday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Genesis 22:1-19
Friday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Isaiah 40:25-31	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.

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

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

Hymn of the Week "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (st. 1-3)

LSB #709

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

May 11th 2025

Hymns: 683, 483, 634, 597, 618, 809, 631, 602, 922

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.