

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of Jubilate (the Fourth Sunday of Easter)  
May 11<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Table of Duties: To Workers of All Kinds**—How many employees or workers would call themselves “slaves”? Not too many. If one did consider himself a slave, it would not be a complimentary term. Yet “slave” is a term that is often used in the New Testament of our Lord. For Him it is not derogatory. It is a term that describes the nature of His office as one who has come into the world to serve no one but others. He came to serve the Father in love and sinful man in love to the point of dying upon the cross. He had no thought for Himself or His own protection or welfare. He is the ultimate “worker” and in His work we see the true nature of Christian work. We “work” as Christians, not to serve ourselves, but to serve others in love. The characteristic of our work is that it is done for others, even if they do not appreciate it. Selfless love is what motivated Jesus, and it is that love to which we are called by faith in the Gospel. Jesus’ selfless love and service to us is reflected in His own words: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Since this is Jesus’ confession about Himself, we should not be averse to having ourselves called slaves.

## 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: Our Sorrow Is Turned to Joy.

### Invocation

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



### Apostles’ Creed

### Verse: Romans 3:28

A man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

### Psalm 147:1-11 (antiphon v. 5)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, You take pleasure in those who fear You and in those who hope in Your mercy. Preach Your Word to us that we might know the power of Your love and the consolation of Your salvation, for You are the only true God and Savior who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### The Catechism: The Table of Duties—To Workers of All Kinds

What does God’s Word say to workers of all kinds?	
Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. [Ephesians 6:5]	First Grade+
Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. [Ephesians 6:6]	Second Grade +
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, [Ephesians 6:7]	Third Grade +
Because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. [Ephesians 6:8]	Fourth Grade +

**Prayer for Workers of All Kinds:** Heavenly Father, Your Son became a slave for us to redeem us from all sin. He worked for our salvation, though we did not deserve it, and He submitted to Your will with all His heart. Forgive us all dishonor and disrespect toward our earthly masters, and grant us the grace of Your Son that we might serve in our life's work with faithfulness toward You and in love and obedience for those we are called to serve, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Readings for the week of Jubilate (the Fourth Sunday of Easter)**

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Tuesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Wednesday	Peter's Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Thursday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Psalms 68:18-20, 32-35
Friday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Isaiah 12:1-6	James 1:16-21

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

*Collect for the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter:*

**Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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** "This Joyful Eastertide" (st. 1-3)

**LSB #482**

**Looking forward to the Week of Cantate (the Fifth Sunday of Easter)**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Hymns: 874, 556, 633, 819, 620, 628, 795, 809, 924**

**Isaiah 12:1-6:** This section of Isaiah records a great song in praise of the Lord for His salvation. This is the song of the faithful who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and declared righteous for Jesus' sake.

**James 1:16-21:** James speaks of the "implanted Word which is able to save your souls." The Spirit calls us by the Word of the Gospel to faith in Christ. He "implants" the Word in us. This is how the "conception" of the new life in Christ begins. The Spirit then brings about our new birth in Holy Baptism and we are the children of God. The life begun in us by the implanted Word moves us to turn away from all the filthiness of our unbelieving nature, because it is the life of Christ Himself in us—the Father's good and perfect gift.

**John 16:5-15:** Jesus teaches concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Unbelief is the root of all sin and rebellion against God. Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin through the preaching of repentance, we cannot be turned from unbelief to faith in Christ. The proclamation of the Law, which convicts us of all manner of sin and unbelief, is an essential part of the Spirit's work in bringing us from unbelief to faith in Christ. Without the conviction of sin, the sinner has no use for Christ. The death of Christ for the sins of the world is the righteousness of God. Man is sinner. God is righteous in Christ. Jesus "went to the Father" in His death to offer up Himself as the righteous offering for the sins of the world. Christ suffered death and all that we by our sins have deserved. The righteousness of Christ's death is the only source of salvation for the world. Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of the righteousness of Christ through the preaching of the forgiveness of sins, we cannot be saved from sin. The proclamation of the Gospel creates faith in Christ and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake. The proclamation of the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake is the heart of the Spirit's work. The judgment of God that the sinner is righteous for Christ's sake sets man free from the judgment of the Law that the devil uses to condemn the world. Since God forgives us all sin and declares us righteous for Jesus' sake as a gift of His grace, the devil cannot accuse us of sin or damn us to eternal death." (from Lutheran Catechesis p. 127)