

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Rogate (the Sixth Sunday of Easter)
May 25th through May 31st, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week—To Widows and To Everyone—When someone loses a spouse, what should they do? Whenever we lose any of God's good gifts, the devil tempts us to fill the void with other things that not only can't satisfy, but which may actually be sinful and a sign of mistrust of God. This is what the Scriptures refer to as "living for pleasure." Instead, in the face of losses we are called to move even closer to Christ and His Word, putting our hope and confidence in the Lord who will fill the void of our lives with Himself. Attendance at Divine Service, catechesis, and the mutual conversation and consolation of Christian brothers and sisters is critically important. This leads us to the last section of the Table of Duties: **To Everyone:** It is our common faith in Christ and the grace of God that unites us in love for one another, even as Christ loved us. The source of true fulfillment is not in living for one's self, but in giving of ourselves to one another out of our love for Christ.

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 Help Is in the Name of Jesus.

Invocation

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



Apostles' Creed

Verse: Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Psalm 107:1-9 (antiphon v. 19)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not despair. I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock nothing moves me. To Him I will surrender, To Him, my soul's defender. If death my portion be, It brings great gain to me; It speeds my life's endeavor To live with Christ forever. He gives me joy in sorrow, Come death now or tomorrow. (LSB 745 st. 2 & 3) Amen.

The Catechism: The Table of Duties—To Widows; To Everyone

What does God's Word say to Widows? The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.	Third Grade+ 1 Timothy 5:5
But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.	Fourth Grade + 1 Timothy 5:6
What does God say to Everyone? The commandments...are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."	First Grade + Romans 13:9
I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1

Prayer for Widows: Heavenly Father, comfort all widows who have lost their husbands and are left all alone. Give them strength and courage to put their hope in You and to cry out to You for help night and day. In their loneliness and sorrow, draw them closer to Your Divine Services and deliver them from the temptation to seek fulfillment from the pleasures of life that can never truly satisfy. Teach them to believe that they have a sacred calling as widows to live by faith in the greater Bridegroom, who has laid down His life for His bride and in whom alone are pleasures forevermore, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Widowers: Heavenly Father, comfort all widowers who have lost their wives and are left without a spouse to love. Deliver them from self-centeredness and despair. Give them the strength to flee from fornication and every form of sexual immorality. Fill the void in their lives with the Gospel of Your Son and the study of Your Word. Teach them to pray to You for help to live in their calling, to serve their neighbors in love, and to commend their future to Your gracious will. Grant them Your grace to remain single, or provide them with a faithful Christian wife; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Everyone: O Lord, as You have loved us in place of Yourself and thereby fulfilled all of God's Law on our behalf, teach us to walk by faith in Your love in all that we do, to live in love and self-sacrifice toward others in our callings, and to pray for everyone in need, seeking not our own glory but the welfare and salvation of our neighbor; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Readings for the week of Rogate (the Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Luke 5:12-16	Numbers 8:5-26
Tuesday	Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Luke 5:17-26	Numbers 9:1-23
Wednesday	Matthew the Tax Collector—Luke 5:27-32	Numbers 10:11-36
Thursday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	Luke 24:44-53
Friday	Fasting and the Sabbath—Luke 5:33-39	Numbers 11:24-29, 12:1-16
Saturday	Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath—Luke 6:1-11	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33

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

Collect for The Sixth Sunday of Easter:

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Collect for The Ascension of Our Lord: (Thursday)

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. 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

"Hear Us, Father, When We Pray"

LSB #773

Looking forward to the Week of Exaudi (the Seventh Sunday of Easter)

June 1st, 2025

Hymns: 913, 539, 614, 611, 629, 701, 663, 843, 496

Ezekiel 36:22-28 The prophet Ezekiel catechizes us on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we "hallow God's holy name" by calling upon it in every time of need. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God, so that we do not profane God's name but live faithfully in this vale of tears. The Holy Spirit sanctifies by the Word of God in baptism by "sprinkling clean water on us, cleansing us from all our filthiness ... and giving us a new heart and putting a new spirit within us." It is the Spirit, through the divine Word who "takes our heart of stone out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh" so that we walk faithfully in the Lord's Word.

1 Peter 4:7-14 The Apostle Peter encourages the Church in the face of suffering. The "fiery trial" of suffering is not "strange" to us if we know what the Bible teaches about the condition of the sinful heart. It is to be expected. Such suffering and persecution that we endure because of our confession of faith should be interpreted as a reason to rejoice because it means that we belong to Christ and, that by enduring such persecution in love for our enemies, we bear witness to the love of God in Christ. "Rejoice ... be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

John 15:26—16:4: "I will pour upon them the spirit of grace and of supplication: Zechariah 12:10' The Spirit should create these two things in all Christians: first, that their hearts are sure and certain that God is gracious unto them; then, that they can help others too with their prayers. The first means that they are reconciled to God and have everything they need. When they have that, they should become as gods and saviors of the world, through their prayers. For when a Christian begins to know Christ as his Lord and Savior, through whom he is redeemed from death and brought into His Kingdom and inheritance, his heart is aglow with a flaming love of God and he would gladly help everyone to the same experience, for he has no greater joy than that he possesses this treasure, that he knows Christ. Therefore he goes out and teaches and exhorts other people, praising and testifying to it before all men, praying and yearning that they too might attain to such grace. That is a restless spirit enjoying the highest rest, in the grace and peace of God, for it cannot be silent or idle, but is always striving with all its powers to spread the honor and glory of God among the people, that others too may receive this Spirit of grace and may then help with the work of prayer."—Martin Luther