

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

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

April 19th through April 25th, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Office of Husband—This week’s section of the Table of Duties directs us to what God’s Word says concerning the Office of Husband. When the Apostle Peter directs, “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” He is reminding husbands that their wives have been given an office by God that places them in a subordinate position to them. It would be very easy for the husband, corrupted by the sinful flesh as he is, to take advantage of his headship and the wife’s position of subordination to him. He is to “be considerate” of the position that God gave her and be husband to her in selfless love. Although they are not both in the same office, they are, nevertheless, equal “heirs of the gracious gift of life” in Christ Jesus. If he does not believe that then his prayers, which include the ministration of his office as a husband, will be “hindered.” The essential disposition of the husband to the wife is contained in the passage from Colossians: “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” Here the husband’s office is depicted as the office of Christ to His bride the Church, as it is also in Ephesians 5. Christ loves His bride by laying down His life for her and covering her sins with His blood. He is never harsh with her who is “bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, but nourishes and cares for her as His own body.” The office of husband finds its identity in Christ, the Church’s Bridegroom.

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: Matthew 10:32-33

Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

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: Commandments 7-8 and The Table of Duties—To Husbands

What is the Seventh Commandment? You shall not steal.	Preschool +
What is the Eighth Commandment? You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +
What does God’s Word say to husbands? Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.	First Grade+ 1 Peter 3:7
Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.	First Grade + Colossians 3:19

Prayer for Husbands: *O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion the men of Your Church into husbands made in Your image, who love their wives and sacrifice themselves for them, even as You gave Yourself for us, Your bride the Church. Teach them to respect their wives and to treat them with tenderness, compassion, and lovingkindness. Deliver them from all pride and arrogance so that they do not take advantage of their wives but honor them as joint heirs of the gracious gift of life. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

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

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	The Nobleman's Son Is Healed—John 4:43-54	1 John 1:1-4
Tuesday	The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:52-8:12	Psalm 36
Wednesday	Jesus Is the Light of the World—John 8:12-30	1 John 1:5-2:2
Thursday	The Truth Shall Make You Free—John 8:31-41	1 John 2:3-11
Friday	Jesus Is Confronted by the Unbelieving Jews—John 8:42-59	1 John 2:12-17
Saturday	St. Mark, Evangelist—Mark 16:14-20	2 Timothy 4:5-18

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.

Collect for St. Mark—Evangelist: (Saturday)

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; 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

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

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

Hymn of the Week *If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death (st. 1-3)*

LSB #486

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

April 26th, 2026

Hymns: 818, 483, 625, 559, 617, 602, 597, 629, 685

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" (v. 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.*