

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of Jubilate (the Fourth Sunday of Easter)
 April 26th through May 2nd, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Table of Duties Concerning Wives and Husbands—The passages of Holy Scripture in the Table of Duties concern the offices we have been given as Christians where our faith in Christ is lived out in this world. There is often great confusion about these two holy offices. Husbands are the head of their wives, but their headship is one of sacrificial love, teaching the Word of God, and forgiving sin. They are to be considerate of their wives who are placed in an office that requires them to submit to their husbands. Husbands are not to lord their authority over their wives. This is always a temptation for any Christian husband. Wives are to understand that their office of submission is patterned after Christ's bride the Church. They are to expect their husbands to love them, teach them, and forgive them. Their beauty is not in outward adornment, but in the reception of their husband's love. "This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands..." It is a beautiful and blessed thing when husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and when wives receive that love and trust in it.

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: John 11:25-26a

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
^{26a} And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

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

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 of Wives? Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.	Third Grade+ Ephesians 5:22
[This is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.] They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.	First Grade + 1 Peter 3:5-6

Prayer for Wives: *O Lord Jesus, by Your Word and Spirit, fashion all Christian women into wives made in the image of Your bride the Church. Teach them to submit to their husbands as to You, their Lord and Savior. Give them hearts which trust in Your Word, honor their husbands, and look to them for love and spiritual headship. Deliver them from all fear and faithlessness. Where their husbands fail them, support them with Your grace and let them find their sufficiency in You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

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

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	The Way, the Truth, and the Life—John 14:1-6	Isaiah 45:15-21
Tuesday	I Am in the Father and the Father in Me—John 14:7-11	Isaiah 45:22-25
Wednesday	If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments—John 14:12-18	Isaiah 48:12-21
Thursday	Fellowship with the Holy Trinity—John 14:19-26	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Friday	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles—John 14:1-14	Ephesians 2:19-22
Saturday	Cantate—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, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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

Collect for Sts. Philip & James—Apostles (Friday):

Almighty God, Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same 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 *For Me to Live Is Jesus (st. 1-3)* **LSB #742**

Looking forward to the Week of Cantate (the Fifth Sunday of Easter) **May 3rd, 2026**

Hymns: 795, 556, 628, 620, 696, 617, 632, 768, 729

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)*