

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Rogate (the Sixth Sunday of Easter)
 May 10th through May 16th, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—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 words in Mark 10:45: “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 have 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 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: Mark 10:45

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

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: Commandments 9-10 and The Table of Duties—To Workers of All Kinds

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.	Preschool +
What is the Tenth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Preschool +
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 Rogate (The Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Tuesday	Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy—John 16:16-23	Jeremiah 31:10-14
Wednesday	Ask and You Will Receive—John 16:23b-33	1 Chronicles 16:8-13
Thursday	Ascension of Our Lord: Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Friday	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-10	1 Chronicles 16:14-22
Saturday	Exaudi: Ezekiel 36:22-28	1 Peter 4:7-14

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

The Head That Once Was Crowned (st. 1, 5-6)

LSB #532

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

May 17th, 2026

Hymns: 501, 539, 618, 636, 706, 642, 598, 643, 913

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: On the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Jesus' catechesis directs us to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost. The Spirit is called the Helper or Comforter because His work is to minister the strength and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us. The Holy Spirit will make it possible for the apostles and the Church to endure suffering and persecution without falling away from Christ. The Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of Truth" because He "testifies" through the Word of God to the truth of who we are, of who Christ is, and of what Jesus has done in love for our salvation. By the testimony of the Spirit alone, sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. Jesus also instructed His apostles that persecution is coming for the Church, so that when they experience the persecution they will not stumble and fall away from their faith in Christ. It is an amazing phenomenon that the message of ultimate love and comfort for sinners—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—should be met with such violent hatred. The hatred of impenitent unbelief can be so great that those who persecute Christians and put them to death actually live under the delusion that they are rendering God a service. In spite of such bitter hatred and persecution, Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only makes it possible for us to endure such suffering, but that through such persecution the Church and her ministers also testify to the suffering and death of Jesus as the source of salvation for the world.