



# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer  
Quasimodo Geniti | April 12-18, 2026

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer  
as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## 1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

## 2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

## 3 PRAY THE OUR FATHER

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we  
forgive those who trespass against  
us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us + from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever and  
ever. Amen.

## 4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

*Morning:* I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the + evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*Evening:* I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the + evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## 5 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—Matthew 10:32-33

Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

## CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

In Ephesians 5, in St. Paul's discussion of the relationship between husband and wife, he compares it to the relationship between the Bridegroom Christ and His Bride, the Church. This is the model for the marriage relationship. Christ loves, provides for, and serves the Church. The Church, then, looks to and submits to Christ as her head. In the same way, then, the husband loves, provides for, and serves his wife, and the wife looks to and submits to her husband as her head.

Of course, this isn't the way our society looks at this God-ordained relationship. And both husbands and wives can selfishly demand their own way. This oughtn't be, and when it happens, we need to repent and do better. But the institution of marriage as it has been set up by God is a good and wonderful thing. This week in our Small Catechism section of the Table of Duties, we hear about the responsibilities of the husband.

The husband is the head of his wife, just as Christ is the head of his Church, and the husband must be careful in how he exercises this headship. Headship doesn't demand it's own way. Rather, it exemplifies itself with chivalrous love, care, and protection. The head is never given the authority to force submission. As the head, the husband has the responsibility of acting and making decisions for the benefit of his wife and family. He is to do what needs to be done to care for and protect them. This is going to look very countercultural. And that's a good thing. For we are in the world, but not of it.

Fritz Zerbst writes in *The Office of Woman in the Church*, "The fact of the oneness of husband and wife (Gen. 2:24) prompts the husband to express his love for this wife in chivalrous concern for her, according to the measure of love which he has for himself. The wife's response to her husband's love is her willingness to acknowledge him as her head. Thus it becomes very clear that the headship of man means service in the love of Jesus Christ and that the self-subjection of woman, even as the self-subjection of the church unto Christ, means trusting surrender."

Let all husbands thus learn from Christ to be considerate and loving toward their wives.

### CATECHISM: Table of Duties

#### *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. (1 Peter 3:7)

First Grade +

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. (Colossians 3:19)

First Grade +

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

*Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.*

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	<b>Easter +1:</b> Job 19:23–27 / 1 Cor 5:7–8 / Mark 16:1–8	
Monday	<b>Martin Chemnitz (postponed)</b>	John 21:1-25; Jonah 1:1-16
Tuesday	<b>Sts. Tiburtius, Valerian, &amp; Maximus:</b> Wisdom 5:1–5 / Jn 15:1–7	John 2:12-25; Jonah 1:17-2:10
Wednesday	<b>St. Ambrose:</b> Sirach 47:8–10a, 11a; 24:1–2 / Jn 15:1–7	John 3:22-36; Jonah 3:1-10
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	John 4:1-27; Jonah 4:1-11
Friday	1 Timothy 6:17–21 / Matthew 28:8–15	John 4:28-38; Is. 33:2-6
Saturday	<i>Feria</i> <i>Looking forward to Sunday: Ezr 34:11–16 / 1 Pet 2:21b–25 / John 10:11–16</i>	John 4:39-45; Is. 42:10-17

## PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

**Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

**Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

**Friday:** Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

### In our prayers this week:

**LCMS District:** Wyoming District

**Partner Church:** Lutheran Church in Togo

**LCMS Missionaries:** The McMiller Family (Italy); Samuel Borgwardt (Taiwan)

**LCMS Education:** Concordia University–Chicago

**Sick & Recovering:** Jocelyn Davey, Annette Teague (Z), Marge Utley (F)

# 6

## PRAY THE **PSALM** OF THE WEEK— Psalm 89

*Throughout this year of Congregation at Prayer, we will be praying the Psalms in canonical order (i.e., the order in which they're found in the canon of Scripture). Each Sunday's bulletin will include a helpful handout for the Psalm of the week. Please locate the Psalm in either your hymnal or bible and join in praying these ancient hymn-prayers of the Church. If the Psalm is a particularly long one, you might consider splitting it up and praying it over multiple days.*

# 7

## READ THE **CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE** READINGS (INSIDE COVER)

*Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.*

# 8

## PRAY THE **COLLECT** (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK

Grant we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we who have celebrated the Paschal solemnities may, by Thy gracious bestowing, hold fast the same in our life and conversation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

# 9

## PRAYER FOR **OURSELVES AND OTHERS** (INSIDE COVER)

# 10

## SAY OR SING THE **HYMN** OF THE WEEK (LSB 556; *Martin Luther, 1483-1546*)

### “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” (sts. 1-2, 4-5)

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
What price our ransom cost Him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;  
My life became a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.
4. But God had seen my wretched state  
Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,  
He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part  
But gave His dearest treasure.
5. God said to His beloved Son:  
“It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with You forever.”