

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2007 through May 6, 2007*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —The Third and Fourth Commandments — Sabbath means rest. The six days of creation followed by the day of rest were prophetic: work must give way to the rest and peace which only God gives through His Son. We can work and work and work, but it will never win our salvation or satisfy our need for God's life and salvation. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, which means that true rest and peace from the struggles of work and sin are found only in Him. He worked for us and for our salvation. On the sixth day He was crucified—the ultimate work! From His work we receive Sabbath—rest, peace, and forgiveness of sins. This is why "the Sabbath day" refers to the preaching and hearing of God's Word, rather than a specific day, through which God's rest is received among us. The Fourth Commandment stands as the first and most important commandment in the Second Table of the Law. All our earthly relationships are rooted in the Fourth Commandment. It is from the honoring of father and mother, and all earthly authority, that we learn the value and sanctity of life (Fifth Commandment); that marriage is the proper place for sexual intimacy and the procreation of children (Sixth Commandment); that personal property is to be protected (Seventh Commandment); that one's name and reputation are sacred (Eighth Commandment); and that we are to be content with what God gives us through his earthly representatives (Ninth and Tenth Commandments). Where the Fourth Commandment is held in faith, we enjoy the blessings of the created order.

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 as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Our Sorrow Will Turn to Joy.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Psalm 84 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty and most merciful God and Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have established Your Church to be a temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks that You continue to provide shepherds to feed and serve your flock over which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. We humbly implore You ever to strengthen the labors of Your ministers that through their ministry of Word and Sacrament Your people may bear fruit in Your knowledge and service and grow up into Him who is the head, Jesus Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	136, 117

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Third and the Fourth Commandments

<p>What is the Third Commandment? Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.</p>	First Grade +

Readings for the Fourth Week of Easter

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Sunday's Gospel—John 16:16-22	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36	Use Bible Stories for Daily Prayer which are also from St. Luke
Monday	Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Luke 5:12-16	Leviticus 9:1-24	
Tuesday	Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Luke 5:17-26	Leviticus 10:1-20	
Wednesday	Matthew the Tax Collector—Luke 5:27-32	Leviticus 16:1-24	
Thursday	Fasting and the Sabbath—Luke 5:33-39	Leviticus 17:1-16	
Friday	Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath—Luke 6:1-11	Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8	
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37	
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	

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

Collect for the Week of Easter IV:

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Academy, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

In Our Prayers this Week

- Else Schulz, undergoing hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, May 2.*
- Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the institutionalized in Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, expanding to those villages near the institutions and to Bulgarians living in the U.S.*
- Steve and Sandy Lueck's wedding anniversary*
- Jim and Anna Stanowsky's wedding anniversary (son and daughter-in-law of Sheila)*

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

Hymn of Week

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (St. 1 and 4)

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Look forward to the Fourth Sunday of Easter—Cantate

May 6, 2007

Hymns: 795, 266, Psalm 66:1-8 (ant. V. 5), 556, 155, 631, 603

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. "Unless the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin through the preaching of repentance, we cannot be turned 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. 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)*