

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 20, 2008 through April 27, 2008*

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

## **Theme: Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life**

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

### **Psalm 146 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.**

*Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord God, we receive our life and being from You alone. You are the source of our salvation, opening our blind eyes, raising us up when we are bowed down in contrite faith, loving us by declaring us righteous for Jesus’ sake, and watching over our faith in every time of need. Defend us from trusting in anyone but You, and grant us a happy and joyful spirit which delights at all times in your free gift of life and salvation in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 Table of Duties— The Table of Duties—To Husbands**

<p><i>What does God’s Word say to husbands?</i> 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.</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Peter 3:7</p>
<p>Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.</p>	<p>First Grade + Colossians 3:19</p>

**Readings for the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”—John 14:1-14	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday	The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	Lev. 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday	Jesus’ Ministry and the Call of the Fishermen—Matt. 4:12-25	Lev. 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday	Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14	Lev. 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday	Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25	Lev. 24:1-23	Luke 12:54-13:17
Friday	No School—Faculty In Service	Lev. 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Lev.26:21-33, 39-44	Luke 14:1-24
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Num. 3:1-16, 39-48	Luke 14:25-15:10

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

*Collect for the Week of the Fifth Sunday of Easter:*

**O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Daily Themes for Prayer**

- 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*

- Pat and Sharon Murphy celebrating their 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*
- Chris Schmidt, hospitalized at Elmbrook Hospital.*
- Ron Allred, recovering from surgery on his carotid artery; Virjean Schmidt recovering from surgery on her jaw;*
- Marvin Zahn, Lyle Sturtz, and Dave Auman’s father in hospice care.*

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of Week**

**“You are the Way; through You Alone” (Stanzas 1-2)**

**526**

**Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**April 27, 2008**

**Hymns:** 557, 556, 769, 821, 603

**Acts 17:16-31:** *Before the Greek philosophers in Athens, Paul testifies to the only true God. The only true God is not made in the image of men by human hands, but is rather the creator, source, and preserver of all things*

**1 Peter 3:13-22:** *Christ’s patient suffering and death for us in love is the source of our strength and peace when we are wronged or suffer persecution. Living by faith in Jesus’ words, gives us a clear conscience and freedom when we suffer wrong.*

**John 14:15-21:** *What is it “to keep the commandments or the Word of the Lord Jesus”? “Keeping” is a word that describes the nature of faith. Faith clings to Christ. Faith trusts His Word. Faith relies upon everything He says. Faith draws its life and strength from Jesus’ Words. “His commandments” are not burdensome, like the Law is burdensome, because the “commandments” of the Lord Jesus invite us to trust in Him and to live from what He commands. Here are some of His commands: “It is finished! Your salvation is complete! Your sins are forgiven! Peace be with you! Take, eat, this is My body. Take and drink, this is My blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.” We love Christ and cling to His Words and commandments, because they give us life and salvation. Even His command to “love one another as I have loved you” is not burdensome, because it is the invitation to live by faith in His love and sacrifice for us in our love and forgiveness toward one another. Jesus’ words and commands always give freedom to the conscience and heart of a Christian who trusts in Him.*