

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter  
 April 27, 2008 through May 4, 2008

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

### Theme: Jesus Said, "I Will Not Leave You Orphans!"

#### 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.  
 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."**

#### Psalm 66 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, You preserve life and give the gift of salvation through Your Son. You hear the prayers of all who fear You and turn from their iniquity. Grant us to believe that all adversity and suffering that enters our lives is for our good and for the preservation of our faith. Teach us at all times to listen to Your Holy Word and to live by faith in Your promises alone, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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— To Wives

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

#### Readings for the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299
Sunday	"If you love Me, keep My commandments"—John 14:15-21	Num. 3:1-16, 39-48    Luke 14:25-15:10
Monday	The Great Commission to baptize & teach the nations—Mt.28:16-20	Num. 8:5-26    Luke 15:11-32
Tuesday	St. Mark Records the Command to Preach -Mark 16:9-20	Num. 9:1-23    Luke 16:1-18
Wednesday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Num. 10:11-36    Luke 16:19-31
Thursday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	Num. 11:1-23, 31-35    Luke 17:1-19
Friday	Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26	Num. 11:24-29, 12:1-16    Luke 17:20-37
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Num. 13:1-3, 17-33    Luke 18:1-17
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Num. 14:1-25    Luke 18:18-34

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

*Collect for the Week of 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.**

**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*

- Mark and Holly Schneider celebrating their 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.*
- Sheila Stanowsky's son and daughter-in-law celebrating their anniversary.*
- Don Weber, recuperating from surgery.*
- Chris Schmidt, hospitalized at Elmbrook Hospital.*
- The family of Marvin Zahn who mourn his death.*
- Lyle Sturtz, and Dave Auman's father in hospice care.*

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

**Hymn of Week**

**"The Head That Once Was Crowned" (Stanzas 1, 5-6)**

**532**

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

**May 4, 2008**

**Hymns: 529, 539, 773, 701, 652**

**Acts 1:1-11:** *St. Luke records Jesus' ascension into heaven. In His ascension, He receives back from the Father the divine authority that He had set aside in His humiliation. Because Jesus was faithful unto the death of the cross, God the Father highly exalted Him and gave Him authority over all things for the sake of the Church. By the authority of Jesus' Word the Apostolic ministry would bear witness to Jesus "in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." By the faithful preaching of the Gospel, the ascended Lord continues to be present with His Church and to shepherd every believer. As He ascended in glory, so He will appear again in glory on the last day to receive His bride to Himself.*

**Ephesians 1:15-23:** *Paul, having heard of the faithfulness of the Ephesian Christians, continues to pray for them that they might be enriched evermore by the Gospel of Christ to know the fullness of God's wisdom and knowledge. He prays that they might learn to know the nature of their calling as Christians and that they would live in the absolute confidence of Christ's victory over every principality and power. Paul here proclaims Jesus as head over all things for the sake of His Church whom He has redeemed with His precious blood that he might fill her with all the fullness of God Himself.*

**Luke 24:44-53:** *St. Luke's Gospel ends with Jesus' final words to the Apostles. He opened up the Old Testament Scriptures to them and taught them that from the beginning to the end of the Old Testament His death and resurrection were proclaimed as a necessity for salvation and at the very center of God's work. He also taught them that the Scriptures of the Old Testament taught the necessity of "preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name to all nations." Apart from the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, Jesus' death and resurrection cannot be believed for salvation. This makes the preaching of the Gospel just as essential as Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus promised the Apostles that they would bear witness to Him and that the Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father, would be sent to them. By the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles would be enabled to faithfully bear witness to Him for the benefit of the whole Church of all times and in every place.*