**The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer**A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday of Easter
April 27 through May 3

 **1 Invocation** *make the sign of the cross and say…*

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

 **2** **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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen .

 **3** **The Lord’s Prayer**

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** **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 Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks**

*Blessing before meal*

“The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” (Ps. 145: 15–16)

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Returning Thanks after meal*

“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” (Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

 **6 Pray the Psalms**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easter | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Morning | 93, 150 | 97; 145 | 98, 146 | 99, 147:1-12 | 47, 147:13-21 | 96, 148 | 92, 149 |
| Evening | 136, 117 | 124, 115 | 66, 116 | 9, 118 | 68, 113 | 49, 138 | 23, 114 |

 **7 Verse of the Week: Romans 6:9; John 20:29b**

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

 **8 Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Sunday** Isaiah 43:8-13; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-7

**Monday** Daniel 1:1-21; 1 John 1:1-10; John 17:1-11

**Tuesday** Daniel 2:1-16; 1 John 2:1-11; John 17:12-19

**Wednesday** Daniel 2:17-30; 1 John 2:12-17; John 17:20-26

**Thursday** Daniel 2:31-49; 1 John 2:18-29; Luke 3:1-14

**Friday** Daniel 3:1-8; 1 John 3:1-10; Luke 3:15-22

**Saturday** Daniel 3:19-30; 1 John 3:11-18; Luke 4:1-13

 **9 The Collect for the Week**

**Second Sunday of Easter** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**10 Catechism Portion for the Week**

**Holy Baptism the Fourth Question “What does Baptism mean for daily living?” –** There is a big difference between saying, “I am baptized,” and “I was baptized.” We should think and speak in terms of the former, that is, that “I am baptized.” Of course, the rite of baptism is meant to be a one-time event that lies in our past. But the implications of this rite are ongoing. We easily discover this by the way the Apostle Paul addressed the matter in Romans 6 when he writes, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” It is this newness of life that our being joined to Christ has made possible. If our baptism is no longer at work in our daily lives, we don’t need to be re-baptized. Instead, we need to be called back to, and renewed in, our baptism. As Christians, we confess, “I am baptized - and now I have a daily battle, confessing my sins and drowning them, and also living the new life according to God’s goodness and love.” Baptism sets the rhythm for our daily lives through daily repentance.

**11 Portion of the Catechism and Luther’s Explanation**

**4. What does such baptizing with water indicate?**

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

**Where is this written?**

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:4)

**12 Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism**

**Prayer based on Holy Baptism the Fourth Question “What does such baptizing with water indicate?” -** Heavenly Father, You have forgiven our sins, rescued us from death and the devil, and given us eternal life by Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your beloved Son. Strengthen our faith so that we daily put to death all sins and evil desires and, trusting Your sure promises, are raised to live before You in righteousness and purity. Finally, bring us to fulfillment of our Baptism in the resurrection of the body to life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. . Amen [from Luther’s Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 305]

**13 Intercessory Prayer**

* Pastor Mark Clements with a blood clot in his brain.
* For Jerrod Benrud (the son of Heide Fehr’s cousin from injuries he sustained falling off a deck.
* For Karla Reagle (Lee Fehr’s daughter) for a healthy pregnancy and delivery.
* For Jeffrey William (Heather Roll’s brother for the loss Natalie)
* For Fred Rick with Sciatic Stenosis

**14 Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday’s Lessons**

**471 O Sons and Daughters of the King:** *Refrain:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! *stnz 1* O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav’nly hosts in glory sing, Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia! *stnz 2* That Easter morn, at break of day, The faithful women went their way To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia! *stnz 3* An angel clad in white they see, Who sits and speaks unto the three, “Your Lord will go to Galilee.” Alleluia! *stnz 4* That night the apostles met in fear; Among them came their master dear And said, “My peace be with you here.” Alleluia! *stnz 5* When Thomas first the tidings heard That they had seen the risen Lord, He doubted the disciples’ word. Alleluia! *stnz 6* “My piercèd side, O Thomas, see, And look upon My hands, My feet; Not faithless but believing be.” Alleluia! *stnz 7* No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side; “You are my Lord and God!” he cried. Alleluia! *stnz 8*  How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been, For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia! *stnz 9* On this most holy day of days Be laud and jubilee and praise: To God your hearts and voices raise. Alleluia! *Refrain* Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

**For May 4, 2025,** The Third Sunday of Easter: **Acts 9:1-22** The conversion of Saul; **Psalm 30** “You have turned … my mourning into dancing.”; **Revelation 5:1-14** “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”; **John 21:1-19** Jesus appears to the disciples as they fish.