

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Exaudi—The Sunday after Easter the Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026 through May 23, 2026

Notes on the Weekday Readings—Monday: All preachers and bearers of Christ who believe in His Word are one as the Father and the Son are one. Those who believe in Him will also share in His cross and resurrection. The basis of this unity which joins Christians to the Triune God and to one another is the love of the Father that is revealed in the Son and proclaimed in the Word. **Tuesday:** Jesus instituted the preaching office for the Church. He sets men aside as the holders of this office to proclaim all the words He preached. Through baptizing and teaching people of every nation, disciples are made, that is, believers in Jesus. This ministry has the authority to forgive sins because Christ Himself, the One who died and rose again for our salvation, gives it. **Wednesday:** The Eleven who had heard the most of Jesus' preaching, were slow to believe. Yet these same are chosen to preach the Word, given the treasure of the Gospel in the earthen vessels of their weak bodies. This shows the power of the Gospel is not from men, but from God. Through their preaching, sinners came to faith in Christ. So it continues today through the ongoing work of the Holy Ministry. **Thursday:** The key to understanding the Scriptures is always the Christ who suffered, died, and rose again. The Scriptures testify of Him. They always call us to faith in Christ. As God once dwelt in the temple, He is now present where Christ's Word is preached and His Sacraments administered. We stay no longer in Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem, the Church, wherever the voice of the Good Shepherd calls His sheep to Himself. **Friday:** The place of Judas is taken by one who was a witness of all the work of Christ, because he would be charged with the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. The Church is identified by her teaching and so one who had followed the Lord from the beginning and heard His teaching is chosen.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray out loud as much as you are able, and as your family size and ages dictate.

Theme of the Week: Christ Has Ascended to Bless His People

Invocation

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

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.

Verse: "In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2–3).

Psalm of the Week: 68:1–10

Daily Readings

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	John 15:26 – 16:4 <i>The Comforter in Persecution</i>	1 Samuel 28 – 31
Monday	John 17:20 – 26 <i>Jesus Prays for All Who Believe in Him</i>	2 Samuel 1 – 3
Tuesday	Matthew 28:16 – 20 <i>The Commission to Baptize and Teach All Nations</i>	2 Samuel 4 – 6
Wednesday	Mark 16:9 – 20 <i>The Command to Preach the Gospel</i>	Matins/Vespers: 2 Samuel 17:1–29
Thursday	Luke 24:44 – 53 <i>Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples</i>	2 Samuel 7 – 9
Friday	Acts 1:12 – 26 <i>Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas' Office</i>	2 Samuel 10 – 12
Saturday	Tomorrow's readings (see bottom of this page)	2 Samuel 13 – 15

The Catechism – The Table of Duties: To Employers and Supervisors & To Youth

“Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.”

Ephesians 6:9

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”

1 Peter 5:5–6

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us always to have a devout will towards You, and the desire to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

The Church: Our congregation, Pastor Andrew Gerike, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, President Matthew Harrison, The Nebraska District and President Richard Snow, our seminaries, our sister churches, especially in Togo, Sri Lanka, Germany, & Haiti; *The World:* Our Nation, President, Governor, Mayor, all public servants, and the armed forces, peace in the Middle East, South Sudan, & Ukraine; *Missions:* Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran Mission; *Our homebound:* Char Emmanuel, Pat Helmke, Norma Kelly, Marilyn Pacas, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers:* Shayla Gerike, Jill Raak; *All others in need:* Dick Chappell, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Jean Young, Hayes Gonzalez, Nancy Goesch, Jeremy Long, Milo Peters, Mark Roberts, Jim Bygrave (friend of Renee McArthur, health issues and testing), our first communicants: Danny Bohnert, Eloise Georgeson, Anastasia Peters, Thorin Raak

Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

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.

Hymn of the Month: 768 *To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray*

Looking forward to The Feast of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1–9 Acts 2:1–25a, 31–33, 36–39, 41–42 John 14:23–31

Hymns: 913, 498, 497, 768, 700, 500, 643, TLH 228, 503