

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd through May 8th, 2021*

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 selection from the catechism and memory verse for the week.

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

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism – How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Large Catechism: Here again our clever spirits contort themselves with their great learning and wisdom; they rant and rave, “How can bread and wine forgive sins or strengthen faith?” Yet they have heard and know that we do not claim this of bread and wine—for in itself bread is bread—but of that bread and wine that are Christ’s body and blood and that are accompanied by the Word. These and no other, we say, are the treasure through which such forgiveness is obtained. This treasure is conveyed and communicated to us in no other way than through the words “given and shed for you.” Here you have both—that it is Christ’s body and blood and that they are yours as a treasure and gift. Christ’s body cannot be an unfruitful, useless thing that does nothing and helps no one. Yet, however great the treasure may be in itself, it must be set within the Word and offered to us through the Word, otherwise we could never know of it or seek it. – *Large Catechism*

Memory Verse – Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

Daily Readings	Bible Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Work of the Holy Spirit John 16:5-15		Psalm 103
Monday	Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead 1 Samuel 11:1-15	Colossians 3:12-17	Psalm 104
Tuesday	Samuel's Address at Saul's Coronation 1 Samuel 12:1-25	Colossians 3:18-4:1	Psalm 105
Wednesday	Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice 1 Samuel 13:1-14	Colossians 4:2-18	Psalm 106
Thursday	Saul's Wars and His Unfaithfulness 1 Samuel 14:52-15:9	1 John 1:1-2:2	Psalm 107
Friday	Saul Is Rejected by the Lord 1 Samuel 15:10-35	1 John 2:3-14	Psalm 108
Saturday	The Bronze Serpent Numbers 21:4-9	1 Timothy 2:1-6	Psalm 109

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

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Undergoing Cancer Treatment:** Sharon Hanke; Eddie Hermsmeyer, treatment beginning in May. **Those Recovering from Surgery:** Dennis Kleiboeker, Pat Borgelt (Angie Nolte's father). **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz, Connie Schilling. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Claire Eggerman (5/2), Matt Nolte (5/3), Lauren Schatz (5/5). **Anniversaries:** Dennis & Sylvia Kleiboeker (5/2).

Look upon them with 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, Your Son, our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer (From the Small Catechism)

Hymn of the Week: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice (LSB 556)