

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following
The Fifth Sunday of Easter (Cantate) (May 7th – May 13th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

Closed Communion

This Week's Catechetical Theme: Closed Communion

Jesus desires to feed the people of God with His body and blood. He desires that the faithful would receive forgiveness, life and salvation through this faithful reception. And those who have faith in His words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," have exactly what Jesus intends to give: His body and blood and the forgiveness of sins! Unfortunately, not everyone believes Jesus' words, or trusts that He is giving what He says He is giving. And if such a person were to receive Holy Communion in this "unworthy manner," he or she would be sinning against the body and blood of Christ (1 Cor. 11:27). If this is the case, what are we to do? Should we give the Lord's Supper to those who deny Jesus' own word and promise? On the contrary. We are to patiently bear witness to what the Lord has said, take every opportunity to teach the truth of God's Word, and pray that His Holy Spirit reveals the truth of Christ's words to those who struggle to believe them.

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

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Work of the Holy Spirit John 16:5-15		Psalm 138
Monday	Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-11	Numbers 17	Psalm 139
Tuesday	Wages of Sin Romans 6:20-23	Numbers 18	Psalm 140

Wednesday	Uzzah and the Ark 2 Samuel 6:5-11	Numbers 19	Psalm 141
Thursday	Eating and Drinking Judgment 1 Corinthians 11:27-29	Numbers 20	Psalm 142
Friday	Those Who Cause Divisions Romans 16:17-18	Numbers 21	Psalm 143
Saturday	Numbers 21:4-9	1 Timothy 2:1-6	Psalm 144

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What sin did Ananias and Sapphira commit? How did the LORD respond? What should we learn about God's Law? **Tues:** To what does sin lead? What are the wages of sin? How does this passage curb us? **Wed:** Read Numbers 4:15. What command had the Lord given about the Ark? How did Uzzah disobey God's Word? How did the LORD respond? What should we learn about God's Law? **Thurs:** If a person does not trust Christ's words in the Sacrament, should that person receive the Sacrament? If such a person received it, would they receive forgiveness? Why or why not? **Fri:** What has Jesus taught us about the Sacrament of the Altar? How do those who teach otherwise cause divisions? Why should we avoid them? Should we commune with them? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Cor. 10:16)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Who Mourn Death: The Family and Friends who mourn of Winny Will and Norman Kleiboeker. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Sheri Nolte, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken. **Baptismal Birthday:** Donald Will, Sr. (5/12). **Anniversaries:** Sara & James Kuper (5/10).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

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