



THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Daily Devotional & Scripture Reading Suggestions



The week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Families and individuals are encouraged to pray and confess as much of this order of meditation as they are able, or as their family size and ages dictate. If able, the head of the home should lead the family in devotion, with the entire family speaking the words in **bold**.*

Invocation

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

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

The appointed Scripture reading from one of the following schedules or another reading may be read. An excerpt from a devotional book and its supplemental Scripture verses may be read in this place as well. The reading/devotion may be followed by discussion and/or questions & answers for better understanding.

	<u>Through the Bible in Two Years</u>	(or)	<u>Family Bible Readings</u>	
Sunday:	(Re-read Sunday's Lessons)		(Re-read Sunday's Sunday School story)	
Monday:	Zechariah 3		Mark 1:21-34	The signs of the Messiah
Tuesday:	Zechariah 4		Mark 1:35-45	Jesus preaches in Galilee and heals a leper
Wednesday:	Zechariah 5		Mark 2:1-12	Jesus forgives and heals a paralytic
Thursday:	Zechariah 6		Mark 2:13-17	Matthew the Tax Collector
Friday:	Zechariah 7		Mark 2:18-28	Fasting and the Sabbath
Saturday:	Zechariah 8		- - - -	

Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

One or more verses from Sunday's Hymn of the Day () or from one of the following hymns may be sung or spoken.*

359*	"Jesus, My Great High Priest"	171	"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"
169	"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"	173	"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"
170	"Draw Us to Thee"	175	"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"

Reading from the Small Catechism

A section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism may be read with the goal of each family member being able to memorize a sensible portion.

The Ten Commandments: The Conclusion

Preschool + *What does God say about all these commandments?*

Second Grade + 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."

What does this mean?

Second Grade + God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore
Preschool + we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands.

Second Grade + But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore
Preschool + we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions ¹

An excerpt from the Book of Concord (The Lutheran Confessions) may be read here or at another time during the day.

Monday:	The Apology of the Augsburg Confession	222-236	pages	161-162
Tuesday:	The Apology of the Augsburg Confession	237-249	pages	163-164
Wednesday:	The Apology of the Augsburg Confession	250-267	pages	164-167
Thursday:	The Apology of the Augsburg Confession	268-279	pages	167-169
Friday:	The Apology of the Augsburg Confession	VII/VIII 1-15	pages	169-171

Prayer

In addition to the previous Sunday's Prayer of the Day, the following themes may be incorporated into your daily prayer routine.

- Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection; for the fruit of faith nourished by the gospel; and for God to continue to shine the light of his gospel into this world of darkness.
- Monday: Pray for your calling and daily work; for workers and the unemployed, your neighbors, schools, teachers, students, and civil authorities – that all may give glory to God.
- Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted, despairing, suffering and oppressed – that all may know deliverance from sin through Christ.
- Wednesday: Pray for marriage; for families and individuals, communities and neighborhoods – that all may live in harmony and believers may rejoice in being children of God.
- Thursday: Pray for the Christian Church; for pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who serve Christ; for the spread of the gospel and the proper use of the sacraments.
- Friday: Pray for the sick, the injured, and the dying – that all may know the eternal life that comes through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of faith in those who are withering or who have fallen away; for believers as they prepare to receive God's grace.

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.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

¹ Courtesy of Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.