

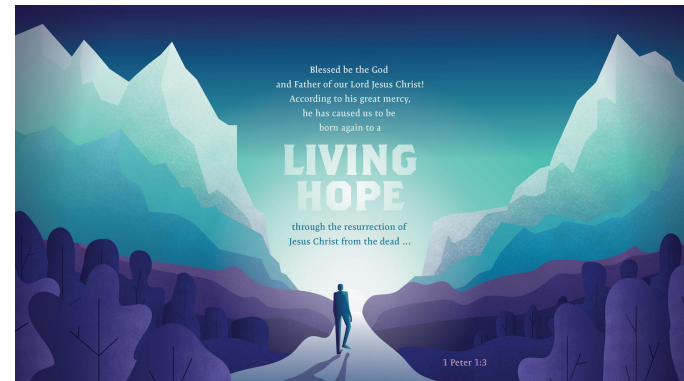
The Congregation at Prayer

# Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



**First Week of Easter**

April 12-April 19, 2026

**Start Every Day**

*“In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”*

*recite* **APOSTLE’S CREED**

VERSE: Job 19:25-26 ***“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.”***

*Read/Chant* **Psalm 148**

**CATECHISM—*Holy Baptism—How can water do such great things?***

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)

**Sunday, April 12**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary reading:* **Exodus 20:1-24**

ANDREAS: (1 Peter 1:2) See how Peter says that he was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ by the foreknowledge of God the Father. Furthermore, he explains what his apostleship is like by saying that it is in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ. Moreover, we who believe in him have also been sanctified by the Spirit, and he sprinkles us too with his blood in order to cleanse us. For how can we not know that God sanctifies us by his own Spirit

and cleanses us believers with his own blood? For Christ was God in human flesh. CATENA.<sup>1</sup>

### **Monday, April 13**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 22:20-23:13*

OECUMENIUS: (1 Peter 1:3) What exactly are the blessings which God has given us in Christ? First, there is hope, not the kind of hope which he gave to Moses, that the people would inherit a promised land in Canaan, for that hope was temporal and corruptible. Rather God gives us a living hope, which has come from the resurrection of Christ. Because of that, he has given all those who believe in Jesus the same resurrection. This is a living hope and an incorruptible inheritance, not stored up here on earth but in heaven, which is much greater. COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, April 14**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 23:14-33*

BEDE: (1 Peter 1:5) Your place in the kingdom of heaven is ready, your room in the Father's house is prepared, your salvation in heaven awaits you. All you have to do, if you want to receive them, is to

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<sup>1</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [\*James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>2</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [\*James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

make yourself ready. But since no one can do this by his own efforts, Peter reminds us that we are kept in the power of God by faith. Nobody can keep doing good works in the strength of his own free will. So we must all ask God to help us, so that we may be brought to perfection by the One who made it possible for us to do good works in the first place. ON 1 PETER.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, April 15**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 24:1-18**

OECUMENIUS: (1 Peter 1:8) If you love him now when you have not seen him but have only heard about him, think how much you will love him when you finally do see him and when he appears in his glory! For if his suffering and death have drawn you to him, how much more will you be attracted by his incredible splendor, when he will grant you the salvation of your souls as your reward. COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.<sup>4</sup>

### **Thursday, April 16**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 25:1-22**

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<sup>3</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>4</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- 6 “My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

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### **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; 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.

### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

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.

### **470 O Sons and Daughters of the King**

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: (1 Peter 1:10) Some say that the promises and the salvation of the saints who lived before the coming of the Savior was inferior to those given to people who came afterwards and who saw Jesus in the flesh, who heard his teaching and beheld the miracles he did in his body. We must however show that this opinion is false. Christ comes in two ways. One is through the intellect, by which God is received as a divine Word. The other is through the senses, by which he appears as a historical person coming out of the womb of Mary. But the first way is more purely divine than the second, which was made necessary by the sinful behavior of mankind. For God comes to all the saints through the intellect and by his word, whether they lived before or after the coming of Christ, sanctifying each one according to his deeds. Those who lived before the coming of Christ were less informed, not because of their wickedness but because of God's dispensation of time. Therefore it is said that the prophets examined how and at what time the salvation of their souls would be fulfilled by the sufferings of Christ and his subsequent glory. They preached these things, knowing that they were not going to be revealed directly to them but would appear at some future time. Therefore it is wrong to say that their sanctification was somehow inferior to ours.

COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [\*James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John\*](#).

### **Friday, April 17**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 31:1-18**

THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE: (1 Peter 1:3-12) We are born in sin and continue to commit sins in this fallen world. By ourselves, we have no hope of salvation or blessings. But God foretold His gracious plans through the prophets. In the fullness of time, He sent His Son to be our Redeemer. He has given us the gift of His Holy Spirit, that we might be brought to faith and persevere in the faith. Through Jesus Christ, we now have a living hope and know the promise of God that we will live in Him forever. We can face any trial or challenge, knowing that we are safe in His care. • Lord God, heavenly Father, give grace to preachers who proclaim Christ and Your Word. Grant that those who hear Your Word may learn of His all-availing sacrifice on the cross. Strengthen us in our faith in the midst of suffering, that we may gaze upon the glory of our Savior. Amen.<sup>6</sup>

### **Saturday, April 18**

- Read **1 Peter 1:1-25**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 32:1-14**

MARTIN LUTHER: (1 Peter 1:25) Thus St. Peter now wants to say: If you want to remain chaste, you must take hold of obedience to the truth in the

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*Jude*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>6</sup> Engelbrecht, Edward A. 2009. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

Spirit; that is, one must not only hear and read the Word of God, but one must take it to heart. Consequently, it is not enough to preach or hear the Gospel once. No, one must constantly move forward and progress. For the Word has such grace that the more one deals with it, the sweeter it becomes. Although the doctrine of faith is always one and the same, one cannot hear it too often, unless there are impertinent and coarse hearts.<sup>7</sup>

### **Sunday, April 19**

- Read **1 Peter 2:1-25**
- *Second Reading:* **Exodus 32:15-35**

### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the *Collect for Easter Sunday***

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.

### **Personal Prayers**

*pray* **LORD'S PRAYER**

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<sup>7</sup> Luther, Martin. 1999. *Luther's Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*. Edited by Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.