

To set us free
Forever, He
Is ris'n and sends
To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.

2 True God, He first
From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy
Doth vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be
Like victory
O'er death and grave,"
Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

3 Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love
Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-99; Dr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76
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*Prayer
Requests*



The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Third Week of Easter

April 19-April 26, 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: 1 Peter 1:24-25 **"All flesh is as grass,
and all the glory of mans as the flower of the
grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls
away, but the word of the LORD endures
forever."**

Read/Chant **Isaiah 40:1-8**

CATECHISM—Holy Baptism—What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father; we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

Sunday, April 19

- Read **1 Peter 2:1-12**
- *Secondary reading: Exodus 32:15-35*

OECUMENIUS: (1 Peter 2:1) These few words say a great deal, for it is unworthy of those who have been born again to an incorruptible life to be ensnared by evil and to prefer things which have no existence to that which truly exists. For evil is not a substance but merely clings to substances as if it were part of them. Peter says that believers ought to be immune to all deceit, pretense, envy and disparagement. Deceit and pretence are the exact opposite of the truth which was preached to you. If envy and disparagement find a home inside you, who are bound by the tie of brotherly love, how will you be able to bear the attacks of the heretics? COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.¹

¹ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. *James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD’S PRAYER**

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.

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

1 With high delight
Let us unite
In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart,
All bear your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.

who has commanded you to do this. That way you will not glory in your freedom as if it were a cloak to cover up your evil thoughts, that is, of insubordination and disobedience. CATENA.⁶

Saturday, April 25

- Read **1 Peter 2:1-24**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 40:17-38*

THEODORET OF CYR: (1 Peter 2:22) Christ was nailed to the cross, paying the penalty not for his own sins but paying the debt of our nature. For our nature was in debt after transgressing the laws of its maker. And since it was in debt and unable to pay, the creator himself in his wisdom devised a way of paying the debt. By taking a human body as capital, he invested it wisely and justly in paying the debt and thereby freeing human nature. ON DIVINE PROVIDENCE 10.26.⁷

Sunday, April 26

- Read **1 Peter 3:1-7**
- *Second Reading: Leviticus 8:1-36*

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 3rd Sunday of Easter*

⁶ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁷ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Monday, April 20

- Read **1 Peter 2:1-12**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 33:1-23*

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: (1 Peter 2:7) Just as the Lord is the true light who has come into the world for judgment, so that at his coming he may give sight to the blind and blind those who see in the wrong way, so he is also a chosen cornerstone, giving honor to those who join themselves to him in faith and revealing himself to them as a reliable foundation, but to those who do not believe he is not precious but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, considered worthless by the builders who have rejected him. These builders are the scribes and the Pharisees. CATENA.²

Tuesday, April 21

- Read **1 Peter 2:1-12**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 34:1-28*

BEDE: (1 Peter 2:9) This title of honor, which God gave to his ancient people through Moses, the apostle Peter now applies to the Gentiles, and rightly so, because they have believed in Christ who was the true cornerstone of Israel's faith. The Gentiles are therefore a chosen race, in contradistinction to those who have been rejected because they themselves rejected the living stone. They are a royal priesthood because they are

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

joined to the body of him who is both the king and the true high priest. As their king, Christ grants them a share in his kingdom, and as their priest he purifies them with the sacrifice of his own blood. ON 1 PETER.³

Wednesday, April 22

- Read **1 Peter 2:13-24**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 34:29-35:21**

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: (1 Peter 2:11) Those who are worthy of love because of their godliness are called “beloved” not because they are that way by nature but because they have received love. The writer of this letter urges such people to abstain from carnal desires which attack the soul. The flesh and the soul have different natures. A soul which is uncorrupted and immortal will desire that kind of thing, whereas the flesh, which is both corrupt and dissolute, desires things which are wicked and vile. But when the two are joined together, the soul naturally feels the passions of the flesh. When it distances itself from bodily passions, it is preserved pure and glorious, with a saving understanding of the way it should act, with a will to behave in that

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

way, with a love for God and with a desire to know him. COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.⁴

Thursday, April 23

- Read **1 Peter 2:13-24**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 38:21-39:31**

BEDE: (1 Peter 2:12) It often happens that pagans who once reviled the faith of Christians, because they had abandoned their gods, stop doing so after they see what a holy and pure life they lead in Christ. They begin instead to glorify and praise God, who is shown by acts of goodness and righteousness to be good and righteous himself. ON 1 PETER.⁵

Friday, April 24

- Read **1 Peter 2:13-24**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 39:32-40:16**

ANDREAS: (1 Peter 2:17) It is wrong to be insubordinate and disobedient to earthly authorities. Let no one say that we have been set free from the world because we have become citizens of heaven. Are you still insisting that we should obey earthly powers? Yes, says Peter, but obey them as free people, which is to say, in obedience to the one who has set you free and

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

⁵ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [*James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.