

Prayer
Requests



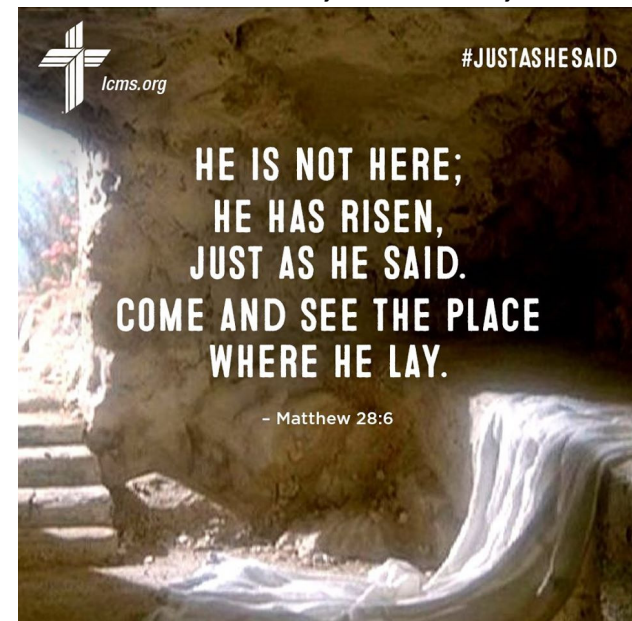
The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Week of Easter

April 5-April 12, 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: Colossians 3:1-3 ***“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”***

Read/Chant Psalm 16

CATECHISM—Holy Baptism—Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Sunday, April 5

- Read **Hebrews 7:23-8:13**
- *Secondary reading:* **Exodus 14:10-31**

CHRYSOSTOM: Here we must apply our minds attentively and consider the apostolic wisdom. For again he shows the difference of the priesthood, “who,” he says, “serve a copy and shadow of heavenly things.” What are the heavenly things he speaks of here? The spiritual things. For although they are done on earth, yet nevertheless they are worthy of the heavens. For when our Lord Jesus Christ lies slain as a sacrifice, when the Spirit is with us, when he who sits on the right hand of the Father is here, when sons are made by the washing, when they are fellow citizens of those in heaven, when we have a country and a city and

And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might
Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow’rless form,
Howe’er it rave and storm.

- 5 The world against me rages,
Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages,
Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free,
No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play,
And night is bright as day.
- 6 Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate’er He passes through.
He rends death’s iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell’s grim thrall;
I follow Him through all.
- 7 He brings me to the portal
That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal
Is found in script of gold:
“Who there My cross has shared
Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died
Shall here be glorified.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.
Text: Public domain

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.

467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

- 1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,
See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness,
Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light
Our spirit wings its flight.
- 2 The foe in triumph shouted
When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed,
His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free;
In glorious victory
He who is strong to save
Has triumphed o'er the grave.
- 3 This is a sight that gladdens—
What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son
In love for me has won.
- 4 Now hell, its prince, the devil,
Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil,

citizenship there, when we are strangers to things here, how can all these be other than “heavenly things”? But what! Are not our hymns heavenly? Do not we also who are below utter in concert with them the same things that the divine choirs of bodiless powers sing above? Is not the altar also heavenly? How? It has nothing carnal. All spiritual things become the offerings. The sacrifice does not disperse into ashes or into smoke or into steamy savor. It makes the things placed there bright and splendid. How again can the rites that we celebrate be other than heavenly? For when he says, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained,” when they have the keys of heaven, how can all be other than heavenly? ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 14.3.¹

Monday, April 6

- Read **Hebrews 9:1-28**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 15:1-18*

THEODORET OF CYR: We are being taught through figures, he is saying, that the law bears of this life and is appropriate for those who still have a moral nature.... He also clearly taught us in these words that he does not reject the law as a whole—only the regulations about eating and drinking, menstruation, leprosy, childbirth and periods; they

¹ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

washed themselves and purified themselves with sprinkling, but none of this could make the conscience pure. Now none of these was imposed without reason but to meet some need, specifying which is not relevant at the present time. They were all temporary, however, looking forward to the time of perfection. INTERPRETATION OF HEBREWS 9.²

Tuesday, April 7

- Read **Hebrews 10:1-18**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 15:19-16:12*

ORIGEN: The way which seems right to us for understanding the Scriptures and the investigation of their meaning, we consider to be the following: we are instructed by Scripture itself regarding the ideas that we ought to form of it. In the Proverbs of Solomon we find just such instruction for the examination of holy Scripture. "For your part," he says, "describe these things to yourself in a threefold manner in counsel and knowledge, that you may answer words of truth to those who question you." Each one, then, ought to describe in his own mind, in a threefold manner, the understanding of the divine letters, that is, so that the simple may be edified, so to speak, by the very body of Scripture; for that is what we call the common and historical meaning. But if some have begun to make considerable progress and are able

² Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Sunday, April 5

- Read **Luke 4:1-15**
- *Second Reading: Exodus 20:1-24*

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for Easter Sunday*

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; 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

contract. Before everything else we need perseverance to succeed in the course ahead of us. He said sin “clings” because it is easily contracted and committed: the eye is fascinated, the ear charmed, touch titillated, tongue easily loosened and thought quickly directed to the worst.

INTERPRETATION OF HEBREWS 12.⁶

Saturday, April 11

- Read **Hebrews 13:1-21**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 19:1-25*

CHRYSOSTOM: If others have plundered your property, display your hospitality out of such things as you have. What excuse, then, shall we have, when they, even after the spoiling of their goods, were thus admonished? And he did not say, “Do not neglect” to entertain strangers, but “to show hospitality”; that is, do not merely entertain strangers, but do it with love for the strangers. Moreover, he did not speak of the recompense that is future and in store for us, lest he should make them more supine, but of that already given. For “thereby some,” he says “have entertained angels unawares.” ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 33.4–5.⁷

⁶ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁷ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

to see something more than that, they may be edified by the very soul of Scripture. And those who are perfect and resemble those of whom the apostle says, “We speak wisdom among them that are perfect, but not the wisdom of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are doomed to pass away. But we speak the wisdom of God, hidden in a mystery, which God has decreed before the ages for our glorification.”² Such people may be edified by the spiritual law which has a shadow of the good things to come, edified as if by the Spirit. For just as man is said to consist of body, and soul and spirit, so also does sacred Scripture, which has been granted by God’s gracious dispensation for the salvation of man. ON FIRST PRINCIPLES 4.1.4 [4.1.11].³

Wednesday, April 8

- Read **Hebrews 10:19-39**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 16:13-35*

CHRYSOSTOM: This then let us “confirm” toward each other. “For love is the fulfilling of the law.” We have no need of labors or of sweatings if we love one another. It is a pathway leading of itself toward virtue. For on the highway, if one finds the beginning, he is guided by it and has no need of one to take him by the hand. So is it also in regard to love. Only lay hold on the beginning, and at once

³ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

you are guided and directed by it. “Love does no wrong to a neighbor” and “thinks no evil.”⁵⁸ Let each person consider how he is disposed toward himself. He does not envy himself. He wishes all good things for himself. He prefers himself before all. He is willing to do all things for himself. If then we are so disposed toward others also, all grievous things are brought to an end; there is no enmity; there is no covetousness, for who would choose to overreach himself? No one. On the contrary, we shall possess all things in common and shall not cease assembling together. And if we do this, the remembrance of injuries would have no place, for who would choose to remember injuries against himself? Who would choose to be angry with himself? Do we not make allowances for ourselves most of all? If we were thus disposed toward our neighbors also, there will never be any remembrance of injuries. ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 19.4.⁴

Thursday, April 9

- Read **Hebrews 11:1-29**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 17:1-16**

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA: “Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?” “The majority do not turn their minds to the sort of things they encounter, and, if they are taught, they

⁴ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

do not acquire knowledge, although they think they do.” So says the admirable Heraclitus. Do you not realize that he is another critic of nonbelievers? “The righteous shall live by his faith,” says the prophet.³ One of the other prophets remarks, “If you do not believe, you emphatically will not understand either.” How could a soul come to the study of these things, itself exceptional, if, deep within, lack of faith over the teaching is fighting against it? Faith, which the Greeks think alien and useless and which they consequently malign, is in fact preconception by the will, an act of consenting to religion and, as the divine apostle puts it, “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval.” Without faith it is impossible to please God. STROMATEIS 2.2.8–9.⁵

Friday, April 10

- Read **Hebrews 12:1-24**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 18:5-27**

THEODORET OF CYR: The models of godliness are set before us on all sides, he is saying, in such vast numbers as to resemble a cloud in density and testify to the power of faith. Accordingly, let us keep our eyes on them, be light on our feet and rid ourselves of the burden of unnecessary worries, in this way being able also to avoid sin that is easy to

⁵ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.