

- 2 Since Christ returned to claim His throne,
 Great gifts for me obtaining,
 My heart will rest in Him alone,
 No other rest remaining;
 For where my treasure went before,
 There all my thoughts will ever soar
 To still their deepest yearning.
- 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
 Recalling Your ascension,
 That I may serve You faithfully
 In thanks for my redemption;
 And then, when all my days will cease,
 Let me depart in joy and peace
 In answer to my pleading.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604-40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873-1964,
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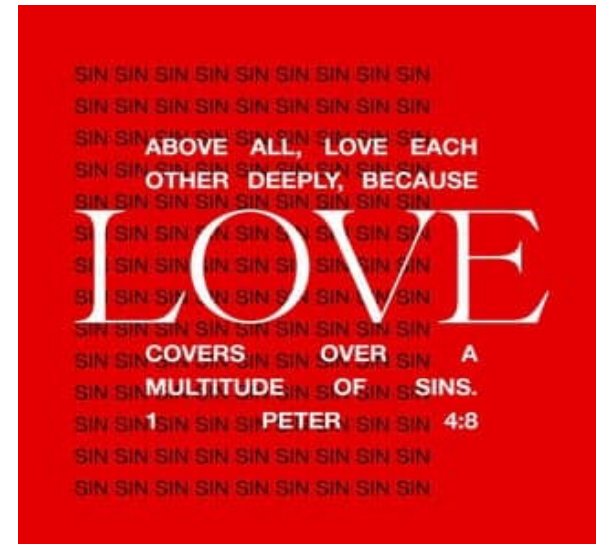
*Prayer
 Requests*



The Congregation at Prayer
Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional
 St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Fifth Week of Easter
 May 10-May 17, 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 4:7-8 ***“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-***

mindful for the sake of your prayers. Above all keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

Read/Chant Psalm 47

CATECHISM—Confess—Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Sunday, May 10

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary reading:* **Numbers 3:1-48**

BEDE: (1 Peter 5:2) Just as the Lord gave the entire church to Peter as his flock, so Peter subdelegates his responsibility to the pastors of the church and commands them to fulfill their task conscientiously. He himself looks after his flock even though he has nothing to live on. That is why he preaches the gospel, so that he might earn a living by it. But he preaches not for earthly rewards but rather for heavenly ones, and he does so eagerly, following the commandments of the Lord. ON 1 PETER.¹

Monday, May 11

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**

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

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.

492 On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build

- 1 On Christ’s ascension I now build
The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.

[James 4:7]. Besides, this commandment is fulfilled and this exercise in the Word is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.⁶

Saturday, May 16

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 13:1-33*

THEOPHYLACT: (1 Peter 5:14) This is no ordinary peace, for it is the same peace that Christ left his disciples when he went to be crucified. “My peace I leave with you, not as the world gives,” for you are not meant to pursue peace by natural affection for one another but by being joined in a holy fellowship, thereby avoiding the blows of enemies. COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.⁷

Sunday, May 17

- Read **TBD**
- *Second Reading: Numbers 14:1-25*

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for Ascension of Our Lord*

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

⁶ McCain, Paul Timothy, ed. 2005. [Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions](#). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

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

- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 8:5-26*

BEDE: (1 Peter 5:3) Peter demonstrates in his own conduct the kind of humility which he wants his flock to show toward him and toward each other. This is in line with what Jesus said: “He who is greatest among you shall be called your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” ON 1 PETER.²

Tuesday, May 12

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 9:1-23*

BEDE: (1 Peter 5:5) After teaching the elders how to preside over the church, Peter turns his attention to the younger members of the congregation. They are to obey their parents. There is no need for them to do a lot of talking; all that is required is that they show an example of submission. For after teaching the elders how they should treat those under them, it is enough for the younger people to respect the good examples of their elders and imitate them carefully. But in order to avoid a situation in which the higher-ups will think that humility is owed to them by their inferiors but not the other way round, Peter goes on to add that we must all show humility to one another. ON 1 PETER.³

Wednesday, May 13

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

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

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 10:11-36*

BEDE: (1 Peter 5:6) God gives grace to the humble in such a way that the more they have been humiliated for his sake while here on earth, the more he will exalt them on the day of reckoning. The word *humiliation* can be understood in many different ways. It may be self-induced, as when someone who is starting out on the way of virtue humbles himself in repentance for the sins which he has committed. It may be what one sees in those who are closer to perfection when they voluntarily agree not to pursue their rights but to live in peace with their neighbors. And of course, it may be what we see when a person is caught up in the whirlwinds of persecution and his spirit is unbowed thanks to the power of patience. ON 1 PETER.⁴

Thursday, May 14

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 11:1-35*

BEDE: (1 Peter 5:9) The stronger you are in your faith, the greater will be your confidence that you can overcome the wiles of the devil. You will also be aided in this endeavor by the knowledge that what you are going through is something common to the fellowship of all Christians throughout the world. Ever since the beginning of time it has been the lot of the righteous to suffer, and what a shame

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

it would be if you were to be the only ones unable to endure this. ON 1 PETER.⁵

Friday, May 15

- Read **1 Peter 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Numbers 12:1-16*

MARTIN LUTHER: (1 Peter 5: 8-9) Let me tell you this, even though you know God's Word perfectly and are already a master in all things: you are daily in the devil's kingdom [Colossians 1:13–14]. He ceases neither day nor night to sneak up on you and to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against these three commandments and all the commandments. Therefore, you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle and the Word does not make a sound, the devil breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware [Matthew 13:24–30].¹⁰¹ On the other hand, the Word is so effective that whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, it is bound never to be without fruit [Isaiah 55:11; Mark 4:20]. It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts [Philippians 4:8]. For these words are not lazy or dead, but are creative, living words [Hebrews 4:12].¹⁰² And even though no other interest or necessity moves us, this truth ought to urge everyone to the Word, because thereby the devil is put to flight and driven away

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