

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

5th Week of Easter

May 7, 2023, through May 14, 2023

Patristic Quote for the Week —**GREGORY THE GREAT (540-604AD)**: The proof of love is its manifestation in deeds. This is why John says in his letter, “He who says, ‘I love God’ and does not observe his commandments is a liar.” Our love is true if we keep our self-will in check according to his commandments. One who is still wandering here and there through his unlawful desires does not really love God, because he is opposing him in his self-will. FORTY GOSPEL HOMILIES 30.1.¹

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 14:23

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

Psalm 73:16-28 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	117	115	116	118	113	138	114	136

Catechism: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: “The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., May 7	Epistle Lesson, 5 th Sunday of Easter—1 Peter 2:2-10	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27
Mon., May 8	Suffering as a Christian—1 Peter 4:1-19	Leviticus 21:1-24
Tues., May 9	Shepherd the Flock of God—1 Peter 5:1-14	Leviticus 23:1-22
Wed, May 10	Confirm Your Calling and Election—2 Peter 1:1-15	Leviticus 23:23-44
Thurs, May 11	Christ’s Glory and the Prophetic Word—2 Peter 1:16-2:22	Leviticus 24:1-23
Fri., May 12	The Day of the Lord Will Come—2 Peter 3:1-18	Leviticus 26:1-20
Sat., May 13	Old Testament Lesson, 6 th Sunday of Easter—Numbers 21:4-9	Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44
Sun., May 14	First Reading, 6 th Sunday of Easter—Acts 17:16-31	Numbers 3:1-6, 39-48

¹ Joel C. Elowsky, ed., [John 11–21](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007), 145–146.

Pray the Collect for Fifth Sunday of Easter:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.*

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

Hymn of the Week

“At the Lamb’s High Feast”

Looking forward to 5th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

Hymns: 556, 616, 725

Acts 17:16-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21