

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Feast of the Resurrection

March 31, 2013, through April 7, 2013

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Resurrection of the Body and Christian Burial — The Easter Epistle this year is from 1 Corinthians 15:51-57: “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This passage clearly teaches something that is central to our faith as Christians: on the last day our bodies will rise from the dead. The physical resurrection of the dead is central to our faith in Christ because the Son of God became man precisely to reverse the consequences of sin: death and separation from God. The Christian reverence for the body rests upon the foundation of the incarnation and bodily suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord. Every act of our salvation is bound up with the flesh and blood body of Jesus. Since we are united with His body in our baptism, since we partake of His body in the Lord’s Supper, since He rose bodily from the dead to incorruption and immortality, WE shall rise bodily from the dead on the Last Day. For this reason Christians have always taken great care of the body, even in death, just as the women and Joseph of Arimathea attended faithfully to the body of Jesus. It is a sign of our faith and hope in the resurrection of the body. We will not be “disembodied spirit.” We will be raised with a glorious spiritual, yet physical body that is immortal and incorruptible. This is why the committal liturgy at the graves states: “We now commit the body of our brother to the ground...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life....May God the Father, who created this body; may God the + Son who redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.”

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

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.

Theme: In My Flesh I Shall See God on the Last Day!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Job 19:25-26

**I know that my Redeemer lives,
and He shall stand at last on the earth;
²⁶and after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
that in my flesh I shall see God.**

Psalms: 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, You received the atoning sacrifice of Your Son for the sins of the whole world and, therefore, raised Him from the dead to bring salvation to us all. Grant that as He fixed His eyes upon Your good and gracious will for us, so may we forever fix our eyes upon Him. As You did not abandon His soul to Sheol, neither will You abandon us or allow us to see the corruption of eternal death. Preserve us in the hope of the resurrection and grant us the confidence of faith that we may never be shaken by sin and death, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	93	97	98	99	47	96	92	93
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	23, 114	136, 117

The Catechism: The Creed— The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Readings for the week of Feast of the Resurrection

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Resurrection of Our Lord—John 20:1-18	Exodus 14:10-31	Heb. 7:23-8:13
Monday	No School—Easter Break	Exodus 15:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-28
Tuesday	No School—Easter Break	Exodus 15:19-16:12	Hebrews 10:1-18
Wednesday	No School—Easter Break	Exodus 16:13-35	Hebrews 10:19-39
Thursday	No School—Easter Break	Exodus 17:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-29
Friday	No School—Easter Break	Exodus 18:5-27	Hebrews 12:1-24
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Exodus 19:1-25	Hebrews 13:1-21
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the Feast of the Resurrection:

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, 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.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Pray for the faithful preaching of the death and resurrection of Christ to the nations.

Michael Schaff, recovering from a recent hospitalization

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (St. 1-2)

LSB 457

Looking forward to the Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2013

Hymns: 468, 471, 155, 473, 482, 603

Acts 5:12-20 (21-32): Miracles, signs, and wonders surrounded the ministry of the apostles in the book of Acts because these men were called by Jesus Himself to be the official eyewitnesses of His resurrection and the official spokesmen of the authoritative Word of the Gospel. The Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection gives life to sinners! The apostles were emboldened to preach the Gospel in the face of opposition, persecution, and the threat of death because it was the truth! Jesus rose from the dead, therefore the complete victory over sin and death was secured. What could any enemy do to Him who rose from the dead or to any of His followers? Nothing! When the angel released the apostles from prison it was a sure sign that the Word of the Gospel would not be bound. The Lord would send it forth no matter the opposition to it. So the angel directed the apostles, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life!" And that is exactly what they did.

Revelation 1:4-18: Christ Jesus who was dead is alive forevermore and has the keys of hell and death. In the revelation that John received, he was given a glimpse of the salvation from death and hell that was assured to them in Jesus.

John 20:19-31: "Peace be with you" were the first words out of Jesus' mouth when He greeted the disciples for the first time after His resurrection. These are important Words. They bestow forgiveness of sins to penitent sinners and they create faith where there is unbelief and a bad conscience. These words were coupled with the flesh and bone appearance of Jesus to the Twelve who were called to be eyewitnesses of His resurrection. Now they, who themselves had been comforted and strengthened in the faith, would proclaim this same Word of peace to others. Jesus gave them an important promise for us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." This guarantees to us that, although we still look forward to seeing and touching Jesus in His body, we, nevertheless, have the full benefits of His peace.