



For your life in Christ the Week of Palm Sunday (Palmarum)

April 14–20, 2025

How to use this resource: 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. You will need your Bible, a Catechism, and an LSB Hymnal. Other resources named within may enrich your meditation.

Begin

Invocation

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn of the Week

LSB #615 “When in the Hour of Deepest Need” (vv. 1–6)

Recite

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Verse of the Week: 1 Corinthians 5:7b–8a, c

“Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (ESV)

The Family Altar
A Guide for Daily Meditation and
Prayer in the Christian Home

Meditate

Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule

	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Sun.</i>
Morning	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 33: Lent Stories - The Passion According to John
Monday	Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest - John 18:1-27
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate - John 18:28-40
Wednesday	Jesus Is Crucified - John 19:1-24
Thursday	Jesus' Side Is Pierced - John 19:25-42
Friday	Attend Maundy Thursday Service
Saturday	Attend Good Friday Service
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday	Ex 9:1-28, Heb 2:1-18 <i>Lam 1:1-22</i>
Tuesday	Ex 9:29-10:20, Heb 3:1-19 <i>Lam 2:1-22</i>
Wednesday	Ex 10:21-11:10, Heb 4:1-16 <i>Lam 3:1-66</i>
Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-28, Heb 5:1-14 <i>Lam 4:1-22 (Ps 31)</i>
Good Friday	Ex 12:29-32; 13:1-16, Heb 6:1-20 <i>Lam 5:1-22 (Ps 22)</i>
Holy Saturday	Ex 13:17-14:9, Heb 7:1-22
Easter Sunday	Ex 14:10-31, Heb 7:23-8:13

Study

The Catechism

Participants may choose to study the catechism at their own pace or follow along with the selected portion of the catechism for the week.

Baptism – Part 3

See p. 15 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Catechism in Depth

1991 Catechism: Questions #253–254

2017 Catechism: Questions #315–318



Pray

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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. **Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Close

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

Observing the Church Year

Liturgical Color(s) of the Week: *Violet; White; Black*

Violet – The color of penitence and self-discipline characteristic of the season. Also a reminder of the mocking royal robe placed on Jesus by the soldiers.

White – The color of the pure glory of Christ and the angels. Jesus comes at the fullness of time as the complete fulfillment of God's promises. Jesus' resurrection is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before the Father becomes our purity.

Black – The absence of light. On the day our Lord died on the cross, the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun. The life of Jesus Christ, the true "light of the world," was snuffed out on the cross.

Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations This Week

NOTE: The following resources contain great summaries of the observances of the church year

1. TDP– "Treasury of Daily Prayer"

2. CS– "Celebrating the Saints"

April 17 – Maundy Thursday (W) (TDP p. 174; CS p. 262)

April 18 – Good Friday (B) (TDP p. 178; CS p. 264)

April 19 – Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) (W) (TDP p. 181; CS p. 266)

April 20 – The Resurrection of Our Lord (W) (TDP p. 185; CS p. 271)

April 20 – Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor (W) (TDP p. 1289; CS p. 62)

Looking Forward to Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday)

Readings: Job 19:23–27; 1 Corinthians 5:6–8 or 1 Corinthians 15:51–57; Mark 16:1–8

Christ's Resurrection Means That We Will One Day Be Raised

"Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor. 5:7). By the shed blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, eternal death has passed over us. Now we pass with Christ through death into life everlasting. For Christ the crucified One is risen! The stone has been rolled away from the tomb, revealing that the tomb could not hold Him (Mark 16:1–8). Now our Redeemer lives eternally to save us from sin and Satan and the grave, and we can live in the sure hope of our own bodily resurrection with Christ. *"After my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God"* (Job 19:26). Feasting on the living Christ, who is our meat and drink indeed, we boldly say: *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor. 15:54–55, 57).