



For your life in Christ the Week of the Fifth Sunday in Lent (Judica)

March 23-29, 2026

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 #755 “In the Very Midst of Life” (vv. 1-2)

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: John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” (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	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128	130	132	134
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	129	131	133	135

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 30: The Passion According to St. John and St. Luke
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	Jesus' Arrest - Luke 22:47-55
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday	Ex 2:1-22, Mark 14:32-52
Tuesday	Ex 2:23-3:22, Mark 14:53-72
Wednesday	Ex 4:1-18, Mark 15:1-15
Thursday	Ex 4:19-31, Mark 15:16-32
Friday	Ex 5:1-6:1, Mark 15:33-47
Saturday	Ex 7:1-25, Mark 16:1-20
Palm Sunday	Ex 8:1-32, Heb 1:1-14 (Ps 118)

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.

Begin Learning the 1st and 2nd Petitions of the Lord's Prayer

See pp. 10-11 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

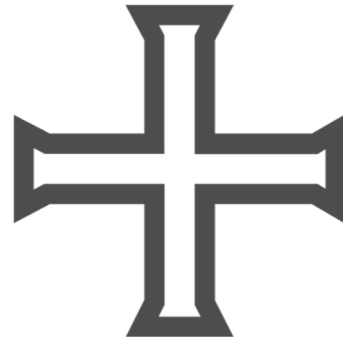
Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

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

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.

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"

March 25 - Annunciation of Our Lord (W) (TDP p. 1286; CS p. 56)

March 29 - Palm/Passion Sunday (V) (CS p. 260)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Palm Sunday (Palmarum/Sunday of the Passion)

Readings: Matthew 21:1-9 or John 12:12-19 (Palm Sunday Procession)

Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

"Behold, your King is coming to you . . . humble and mounted on a donkey" (Zech. 9:9-12; Mt. 21:1-9). Our Lord rides in this humble fashion because He is entering Jerusalem to humble Himself even to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:5-11). His kingly crown will not be made of gold but of thorns, the sign of sin's curse. For His royal reign is displayed in bearing this curse for His people, saving us from our enemies by sacrificing His own life. The sinless One takes the place of the sinner so that the sinner can be freed and bear the name "Barabbas," "son of the Father" (Matthew 26 and 27). It is at the name of this exalted Savior, Jesus, that we bow in humble faith. With the centurion who declared, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Mt. 27:54), we are also given to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11).