

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Seventh Week of Easter
May 18-23, 2026

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 permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

Invocation: In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speak the Apostles' Creed.

Verse: John 7:37b-38 – *“Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”*

Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #497 “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”

Readings for the Week: *[The readings for Thursday-Saturday are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.]*

Monday	Psalm 25:1–15	<i>What do we ask the Lord <u>not</u> to remember? What do we want Him to remember? What causes Him to do both of these?</i>
Tuesday	Joel 3:1-5	<i>What promise does God give to His people? What will He do to His enemies? Should this cause us to rejoice, repent, or both?</i>
Wednesday	Ezekiel 19:1-9	<i>How are the princes of Israel and the nations like lions? What were they doing? Who were they consuming? Jesus is called the “lion of Judah” – what and who did <u>He</u> come to devour?</i>
Thursday	Numbers 11:24–30	<i>How does this event foreshadow what happened on Pentecost?</i>
Friday	Acts 2:1–21	<i>What did God want everyone in Jerusalem that day to know and believe? What did He do to accomplish that?</i>
Saturday	John 7:37–39	<i>What is “living water?” Where is it for us? How do we get it? What does it do for us?</i>

The Catechism – The Creed: The Second Article [part 1]: And [I believe] 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.

Collect for the Week: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers: Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
- + God’s blessing, wisdom, and guidance for our congregation’s keyboardists and musicians.
- + the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay, for God’s wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
- + God’s blessing, guidance, wisdom, and provision for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!

In our prayers this week, we remember:

Ken, Kyle, Christina (friend of the congregation and former attender), **Tricia** (Mickey's neighbor), **Joel** (friend of the Johnsons), for continued healing and recovery.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Susan Kunkel, Fawn, Mary Ann, Katie** (friend of Whitney), **Jeremy** (Jacob's brother), **Anthony** (friend of Pastor), **Erika, Brad, Rita, and Pam** (relatives and friends of Mickey), **Linda** (Mickey's sister), and **Kristi, Jerry, Adriana, and Kristen** (friends of the Killians).

Melody, Amanda, Katrina (Anna's sister), and **Ashley** (Michelle's daughter-in-law), for safe and healthy pregnancies and deliveries.

Joseph and Joanne, Mary Ann, Barbara (Laurie's mother), and all elderly and homebound.

Suress (friend of Elizabeth), in need of a kidney transplant; **David** (Marcus' father) for safety; and **Charlie** (Eric's friend), for health and peace.

Ava (friend of Grace Libby), **Leander, Melanie** (friend of Caroline), **Rene** (friend of Randy and TJ), **Jude and Tobias** (friends of Nancy), **Timothy** (friend of Marcus), **Kristoffer** (Lena's son), and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth), for protection, peace, hope, strength, and faith.

Jonathan Malekzadeh, Lena, Greta (Lena's mother), **Jacque** (Mickey's sister), **Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé), and **Nikki** (niece of Kathy) for strength and continued health.

Kim and Dan (friends of Ben) for their upcoming marriage.

The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

Beth and Josh (friends of the Killians), **Sahilis** (Viviana's sister), **Scott** (friend of Scott Killian), **Thomas** (Angela's brother), **Traci** (friend of Elizabeth), **Dorothy and Mackenzie, and their families**, for unity, protection, peace, and faith.

Leslie, Dorris, and their children (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

Fatma (friend of our church), **Lindsey** (TJ's friend's daughter), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth), and **Tamim and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For our adopted missionaries: **Rev. Chris and Jenny Yang** (Taiwan), the **Wolf family** (Africa), and **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (Philadelphia), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For our seminary students: **Nathaniel Hall** (Keisers' son-in-law), **Erik Preus**, and **Thomas Malmstrom** (on vicarage).

For our catechumens: **Greta Bowser, Liana Johnson, Grace Libby, and Etta, William, and Eloise Spencer.**

For our college students: **Joanna Douthwaite, Erik Eidsmoe, Nathaniel Faunce, Ben Galloway, Vincent Heuyer, Anna Kautz, Caleb Malekzadeh, Tristan Price, Timothy Strand, and Joshua Vigil.**

The people of Ukraine and Russia, for peace, protection, and an end to the war, and for God to provide for those separated and displaced, especially the children.

For those serving our country in the military: **Jacqueline Teixeira, Nathaniel Faunce, Juliana Wing, Zechariah Vigil, and John Boling and his son Daniel** (friends of Mickey).

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Erik, Bethany, Madelyn, Levi, Adam, Ian, Anna, and Grace Preus**

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless **our mission church, Hope Lutheran Mission, in Purcellville, and our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County.**

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Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Scott Killian
Vice President: Rob Douthwaite
Recording Secretary: Caroline Trundle
Treasurer: Logan Hansen
Financial Secretary: Dave Fields
Executive Board, Member-at-Large: John Schatz
Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian, Logan Hansen

Board of Evangelism and Outreach: Kathy Kielmeyer (Chair) and Nancy Nus

Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Jonathan Malekzadeh

Building Committee: Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, Kathy Kielmeyer, and Scott Killian

Investment Committee: Logan Hansen and Scott Killian

Commission on Mercy: Grace Killian and Caroline Trundle

Sunday School Teachers: Scott and Grace Killian

Pastor's Assistant: Grace Killian

About this Sunday: The Ascension of Our Lord

Order of Service: Divine Service 1 (page 151)

The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, “*appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God*” (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues “*to do and teach*” (Acts 1:1), preaching “*repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” (Luke 24:47) even “*to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the Word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon “*the church, which is his body*” (Eph. 1:22–23). In this holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “*in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 1:20).



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This Week at Saint Athanasius / Hope Lutheran Mission

TODAY	Executive Board, 12 Noon
Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday-Tuesday	<i>Pastor away at SELC District Eastern Circuit Pastors Conference</i>
Monday, May 18	Building Committee, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 19	School Chapel, 8:30 am
Wednesday, May 20	Online Bible Study, 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 21	School Chapel, 8:30 am
Saturday, May 23	Youth Catechesis, 8:00 am
Sunday, May 24	<i>The Feast of Pentecost</i> Private Absolution, 8:00-8:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 am Divine Service, 10:15 am Hope Lutheran Mission Divine Service, 2:00 pm

Next week's hymns: 498, 497, 913, 501, 650, 596

Midweek Bible Study is back this week as we jump back into Acts chapter 20 and Paul's meeting with the Ephesians pastors. What did he say to them? How did he encourage them? What did he want them to know? Join us and find out! Hope to see you!

(Home)school Chapel: *Only a couple more weeks . . . Join us before it's too late!* Every Tuesday, we review a part of the Catechism, and every Thursday we hear the Gospel for Sunday. Live on our YouTube channel at 8:30 am Tuesday and Thursday. Each chapel is only approx. 25 minutes, easy to fit into your day, or over lunch if you can't join us live. It's always good to spend more time in the Word of God and prayer. Take advantage of this opportunity!

Understanding Difficult Old Testament Passages . . . Was the universe really created in six days? Why did men live so long? What about all the violence in the Old Testament? Do Old Testament prophets predict current events? You'll find answers to these questions in a series of interviews with Doctor Reed Lessing and Doctor Andrew Steinmann, co-authors of the new book "Wrestling with God." You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org/wrestlingwithgod. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken.

Life Thought: "We are no longer terrified sinners but God's own children because of what Jesus has done for us. And so, the Day of Judgment becomes good news for us—because it is the day when the One we love most returns to bring us home in peace." *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Congregational Meeting: As a follow-on to our Congregational Summit in March, we're having a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 14 after the service. We aim to continue the conversations about our future, and we expect it will last 60-90 minutes. And yes, we'll provide food! Please plan to stay, even if you were unable to attend in March – we want all to participate. For more information, please speak with Jay Hertel or Scott Killian.

Opportunity for Service: Every Sunday we need folks to set-up and run our livestreaming. We have folks who are unable to come to church who depend on this. Would you like to help with this and learn more about the technology involved? This set-up usually begins around 8:30 so that everything is in place by Bible Class and Sunday School time. Speak to Jay Hertel if you are interested. Thanks!

Opportunity for Study: Every Monday-Friday morning at 7:00 Pastor leads “Morning Prayer on the Web,” a time to start your day off in the Word of God and prayer. This is on our WebEx video conferencing service and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Luther once said that he was so busy that if he did not start his day in the Word of God and prayer, he would often not get back to it! You too? Join us here! Go to <saint-athanasius.org/WebExInstr.html> for more information on how to log on and join us, or speak to Pastor if you need more help..



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of “**Phil’s Friends!**” See Caroline Trundle for more information.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

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| May 18-19 | Pastor away at SELC District Eastern Circuit Pastors Conference |
| May 24-28 | Pastor away on mini-vacation |
| May 31 | Seminarian Nathaniel Hall visit |