

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*  
**For the Fifth Week of Easter**  
*May 4-9, 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: Psalm 119:89-90a** – *“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations.”*

**Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #556** *“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”*

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

<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 66:8–20	<i>Why does God test and try His Christians? What does He do after that? How does that help us trust? What then should we do?</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	James 1:22-27	<i>What should the Word of God do once it enters our ears? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this? How does He help us?</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 16:23-33	<i>What promise does Jesus give here? How do we have direct access to the Father? How has Jesus made us beloved sons of God?</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 17:16–31	<i>What filled the city of Athens? How did Paul use that to preach the one true God? How did He preach God? Why? Do people have idols (false gods) today, too? How can <u>we</u> teach them of Jesus?</i>
<b>Friday</b>	1 Peter 3:13–22	<i>Always be prepared to tell people of the hope in you. What hope is that? What if that brings suffering? What should we remember?</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	John 14:15-21	<i>How do our actions show our love? How did Jesus show His love for us? What did He promise to do? What did He do?</i>

**The Catechism – The Creed: The First Article [part 2]:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that . . . He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife, children, land, animals, and all I have He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. . . .

**Collect for the Week:** O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 Commission on Mercy.
- + the Lutheran Church of Norway and Iceland, for God’s wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
- + God’s blessing, guidance, wisdom, and provision for LCMS Human Care.

*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, John, Kyle, David** (Grace's uncle), **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 **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.

**Barbara** (Laurie's mother) in Memory Care, and **Ava** (friend of Grace Libby) and **Leander**, for peace and faith.

**Emily** (Rob's co-worker), **Jude and Tobias** (friends of Nancy) for faith, strength, and peace.

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

**Melanie** (friend of Caroline), **Rene** (friend of Randy and TJ), **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: **Timothy Strand [PHC]**

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Order of Service: Divine Service 1 (page 151)

#### ***The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Way, the Truth and the Life***

The risen Lord Jesus alone is *“the way, and the truth, and the life,”* and we come *“to the Father”* only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus *“glorified in the Son,”* and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12–14). Stephen, *“a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 6:5) and *“doing great wonders and signs among the people”* (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he *“gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was *“rejected by men”* in the sight of God, He is *“chosen and precious”* (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father's *“spiritual house,”* and we are built upon Him as *“living stones”* (1 Peter 2:5).



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## **This Week at Saint Athanasius / Hope Lutheran Mission**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am</b>
Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday, May 4	Board of Elders, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 5	School Chapel, 8:30 am
Wednesday, May 6	Online Bible Study, 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 7	School Chapel, 8:30 am
	Commission on Mercy, 7:00 pm
Saturday, May 9	Youth Catechesis, 8:00 am
	<b>Walk-Run-Ride for Life</b>
Sunday, May 10	<i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</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: 556 (1-5), 556 (6-10), 636, 484, 490**

**THANK YOU** Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler for preaching and teaching for us today, and for presenting at the Good Shepherd Seminar yesterday!

**Potluck Luncheon Today:** We hope you can stay and take advantage of this special opportunity to visit with Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler, our guest preacher and seminary professor.

**Midweek Bible Study** resumes this week as we start Acts chapter 20. Hope to see you!

**Assist-ing Others:** **It's not too late!** Join us for the Walk-Run-Ride for Life **this Saturday** to help raise support for the important work being done by Assist Pregnancy Center! This year, the 1 mile family stroll and 5k run are being held at Occoquan Regional Park. Join our *Lutherans for Life* team or sponsor someone. Go to [runsignup.com/lfl](https://runsignup.com/lfl) to do so.

**(Home)school Chapel:** *Just a few more weeks . . . Join us!* 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!

**Providing Artillery Support for the Church Militant on the Front Lines . . .** Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: Intercessory Prayer in a Post-Christian Culture, Understanding Difficult Old Testament Passages, Roman Catholicism on Free Will, "The Population Bomb" by Paul Ehrlich, Luther's Large Catechism on Holy Baptism and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](https://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**Life Thought:** “When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: ‘I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ’ (Philippians 1:6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Opportunity for Service:** One of the best ways to serve your fellow Athanasians is simply to be there for them. That is true both outside of church and inside. When you come to church and Bible Study, you are being fed, but you are also being there for others, to encourage and support them and be the body of Christ with them. Make a commitment to come every week, no excuses! It will be a blessing both for yourself and for them.

**Opportunity for Study:** We offer Bible Study for teens and adults and Sunday School for children every Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Join us! Time in the Word of God is vital for our life as Christians and for a healthy congregation. And not only you will benefit – so will we! You will be a blessing to us as you participate in our reading and discussion. Hope to see you!



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 9     | Assist Pregnancy Center’s Walk-Run-Ride for Life                |
| May 13-15 | Pastor away at Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees meeting         |
| 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                                 |