



Saint Athanasius at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the homes of our families.

The Fifth Week of Easter †
May 4-9, 2026

2025-26 School Year Theme Verse

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

This Week: *Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* It's not easy living as a Christian in this world! There are many temptations to sin. Jesus saved us by His death and resurrection and made us Christians, but we need help to live as the Christians - the sons and daughters of God - we are! So we hear this week that Jesus promises us a Helper - His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word of God, whether that Word is preached, or used in Baptism, Absolution, or the Lord's Supper. Jesus will not leave us as orphans, on our own with no one to protect us or provide for us. No! He sends us His Spirit who will give us all we need. It's still going to be hard living as a Christian in a world of sin. Peter says we may have to suffer for doing that. But the Spirit keeps our eyes on Jesus and His victory, so we can be confident. We've already won! We have eternal life and a home in heaven. For *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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 for the week, as well as the theme verse (above) for the year.

Invocation

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

Confess the Apostles' Creed

(Consult the "Companion Sheet" for the words of this Creed.)

Read Psalm 66:8-20 *(see next page)*

Scripture for the Week to Read and Discuss

Monday	Psalm 66:8-20	<i>This psalm says God tests and tries His Christians! Why? What does He do <u>after</u> that? How does that help us trust in Him? What then should we do? How does that help us and others?</i>
Tuesday	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>
Wednesday	John 16:23-33	<i>What promise does Jesus give here? Who <u>always</u> has direct access to their Father? So how do <u>we</u> have direct access to the Father? How has Jesus made us beloved sons of God? How has Jesus overcome the world?</i>
Thursday	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? What did He say about Him? Why? Do people have idols (false gods) today, too? How can <u>we</u> teach them of Jesus?</i>
Friday	1 Peter 3:13-22	<i>Always be prepared to tell people of the hope in you, Peter says. Does that mean I have to know all the answers? What is our hope? (Or really, WHO!) What can I say about Him? What if that brings suffering? What should we remember?</i>
Saturday	John 14:15-21	<i>How do our actions show our love? Is just saying "I love you" enough? Why or why not? How did Jesus show His love for <u>you</u>? What does He promise to do here? What did He do to make this happen?</i>

Learn by Heart

Scripture: Psalm 119:89-90a – *"Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations."*

Catechism: **The Office of the Keys** - What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to his Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” John 20:22-23

Prayers

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pray for Nicholas, Grace, Mary, and John

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you rejoice in Jesus’ victory, and so live as the Christian you are and always be ready to confess Jesus as your Saviour.

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, and either the Morning or Evening Prayer.
(Consult the “Companion Sheet” for the words of these prayers.)

Psalm 66:8-20



⁸Bless our God, O | peoples;*
let the sound of his | praise be heard,
⁹who has kept our soul among the | living*
and has not let our | feet slip.
¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;*
you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.
¹¹You brought us in- | to the net;*
you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;
¹²you let men ride o- | ver our heads;*
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.
¹³I will come into your house with burnt | offerings;*
I will perform my | vows to you,
¹⁴that which my lips | uttered*
and my mouth promised when I was in | trouble.
¹⁵I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;*
I will make an offering of | bulls and goats.
¹⁶Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.
¹⁷I cried to him | with my mouth,*
and high praise was | on my tongue.
¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,*
the Lord would not have | listened.
¹⁹But truly God has | listened;*
he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.
²⁰Blessèd | be God,*
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast | love from me!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Hymn for the Week: 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

(Go to our website for a link to the music to listen to and sing along with this hymn)



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell
mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com - mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
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Text and tune: Public domain

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Liturgy sections from Lutheran Service Book

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