

Congregation at Prayer April 23, 2017

We tend to act as if seeing were believing. And while seeing is helpful, when we apply seeing is believing to the faith it can be disastrous. Are hope is stored away from us and that means we generally do not see what we are hoping for. When we apply seeing is believing to our hope, we begin to treat our hope as unreal. [Acts 5:29–42; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Is it real or fantasy?

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

Matthew 10:32–33 (ESV) 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

The Sixth Commandment You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	First Grade +
To Husbands Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Col. 3:19	Third grade +

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	The Resurrection—Matthew 28:1-15
Tuesday	Road to Emmaus—Luke 4:13-27
Wednesday	Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35

Thursday	Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49
Friday	Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31
Weekend	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray for those are prevented from gathering for worship: those who live in areas where persecution is strong; those who do not have a Christian church nearby; those who are homebound; those whose work keeps them away from worship.

Monday: Pray for the salvation and well-being of your neighbors; for our Lutheran schools, colleges, and seminaries; for those who serve as teachers, healthcare workers, police and firefighters; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for your personal life of faith: that you would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in your life and relationships, that your attitudes, your reactions, and your choices would reflect your faith in Christ.

Wed: Pray for the mission of our congregation: to bring people hope, healing and new life through Jesus Christ. Pray about practical ways for you personally to join Jesus in His mission.

Thursday: Pray for your pastors. Pray for protection for them from the attacks of the enemy. Pray for their influence for Christ in the congregation and in the community. Pray that they are able to finish strong and remain faithful to the end.

Friday: Pray for the ministry of Lutheran Church Charities: for their comfort dog ministry; for their Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT) that deploy when disasters happen here and around the country.

Saturday: Pray for the witness of you and your family to those God brings across your path. Pray for eyes to see the opportunities the Lord gives you to talk to others about Jesus or to serve them in His name.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-25

Luke 24:13-35