

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of the Third Sunday of Easter
April 19 through April 25

LOVE

Chapter 118. The Four Stages of the Christian's Life, and the Four Corresponding Stages of the Church's History.

When, sunk in the darkest depths of ignorance, man lives according to the flesh undisturbed by any struggle of reason or conscience, this is his first state. Afterwards, when through the law has come the knowledge of sin, and the Spirit of God has not yet interposed His aid, man, striving to live according to the law, is thwarted in his efforts and falls into conscious sin, and so, being overcome of sin, becomes its slave (for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage); and thus the effect produced by the knowledge of the commandment is this, that sin works in man all manner of concupiscence, and he is involved in the additional guilt of willful transgression, and that is fulfilled which is written: *The law entered that the offense might abound.* This is man's second state. But if God has regard to him, and inspires him with faith in God's help, and the Spirit of God begins to work in him, then the mightier power of love strives against the power of the flesh; and although there is still in the man's own nature a power that fights against him (for his disease is not completely cured), yet he lives the life of the just by faith, and lives in righteousness so far as he does not yield to evil lust, but conquers it by the love of holiness. This is the third state of a man of good hope; and he who by steadfast piety advances in this course, shall attain at last to peace, that peace which, after this life is over, shall be perfected in the repose of the spirit, and finally in the resurrection of the body. Of these four different stages the first is before the law, the second is under the law, the third is under grace, and the fourth is in full and perfect peace. Thus, too, has the history of God's people been ordered according to His pleasure who disposes all things in number, and measure, and weight. For the church existed at first before the law; then under the law, which was given by Moses; then under grace, which was first made manifest in the coming of the Mediator. Not, indeed, that this grace was absent previously, but, in harmony with the arrangements of the time, it was veiled and hidden. For none, even of the just men of old, could find salvation apart from the faith of Christ; nor unless He had been known to them could their ministry have been used to convey prophecies concerning Him to us, some more plain, and some more obscure.

Chapter 119. The Grace of Regeneration Washes Away All Past Sin and All Original Guilt.

Now in whichever of these four stages (as we may call them) the grace of regeneration finds any particular man, all his past sins are there and then pardoned, and the guilt which he contracted in his birth is removed in his new birth; and so true is it that the wind blows where it lists, that some have never known the second stage, that of slavery under the law, but have received the divine assistance as soon as they received the commandment. ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapters 118-119

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

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

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Psalm – 116:1-14

The Catechism – *Christian Questions With Their Answers*

16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, April 19 – Luke 6:39-49

Monday, April 20 – Luke 7:1-17 (*Commemoration of Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor*)

Tuesday, April 21 – Luke 7:18-35 (*Commemoration of Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian*)

Wednesday, April 22 – Luke 7:36-50

Thursday, April 23 – Luke 8:1-21

Friday, April 24 – Luke 8:22-39 (*Commemoration of Joann Walter, Kantor*)

Saturday, April 25 – Luke 8:40-56 (*Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist; suggested add'l reading: Mark 16:14-20*)

Meditation *(If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it)*

Prayers

Let us pray...O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Jim Baum; Jackie Blydenburgh; Roseann Carrano; Roy & Ingrid Chopping; Dean Clemente; Ed Doepp; Holly Erb; Marion Flaharty; Anne Grant; Don Mack; Sammy Malenczak; Dorothy Mistler; Rudy & Julie Morgenfruh; Dot Rigaud; Joanne Roland; Alice Ryan; Doris Schindlar; Chuck & Judy Scott; Judy Smith; Gertrude Sutorius; Arlene Uhl; Ingrid Vessie; Elaine Whitehouse; Jack Whitehouse

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn for the Week – *With High Delight Let Us Unite*

LSB #483, st. 3

Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So Shall His love Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ † and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

† Look Ahead for Next Week:

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10