

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*  
**For the Sixth Week of Easter**  
*May 11-16, 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: Ephesians 1:22-23** – *“He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*

**Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #494** *“See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”*

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

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 1:12–26	<i>What qualifications did Judas' replacement need? Why? What would the apostles be doing? Why is this important?</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11	<i>Why do Christians suffer? What hope do we have in suffering? How can that help us rejoice when we suffer?</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 17:1–11	<i>How did Jesus glorify His Father? How did the Father glorify Jesus? How are we glorified? How can we glorify God?</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 1:1–11	<i>How will Jesus “restore the kingdom to Israel?” How will the apostles play a role in that? When will God's kingdom come?</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Ephesians 1:15–23	<i>To where did Jesus ascend? What is the “right hand of the Father?” What is Jesus doing there? For who?</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Luke 24:44–53	<i>How do you think Jesus opening the Scriptures to the disciples helped them rejoice when He ascended? When we lack joy, how can the Scriptures lead us back to the joy we need?</i>

**The Catechism – The Creed: The First Article [part 3]:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that . . . He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

**Collect for the Week:** Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 Church Technology Council.
- + the Gutnius Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea), for God's wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
- + God's blessing, guidance, and provision for the Luther Academy.

*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, 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), **Emily** (Rob's co-worker), **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: **Nathaniel, Rachel, Zechariah, and Simeon Hall**

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Order of Service: Divine Service 1 (page 151)

#### ***The Lord Jesus Comforts Us with the Preaching of His Resurrection***

*“The God who ... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything”* (Acts 17:24–25) wants all people to seek Him that they might *“feel their way toward him and find him”* (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols *“formed by the art and imagination of man”* (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and *“has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead”* (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us *“as orphans”* (John 14:18), but He gives *“another Helper,”* the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of *“Jesus and the resurrection”* (Acts 17:18). Because He *“suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous”* (1 Peter 3:18), we *“honor Christ the Lord as holy”* and are always *“prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks”* for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism *“now saves”* us *“as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 3:21).



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

TODAY	Hope Lutheran Mission Divine Service, 2:00 pm
Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Tuesday, May 12	School Chapel, 8:30 am
Wednesday-Friday	<i>Pastor away at Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees meeting</i>
Thursday, May 14	School Chapel, 8:30 am
Sunday, May 17	<i>The Ascension of Our Lord (observed)</i> Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 am Divine Service, 10:15 am Executive Board, 12 Noon

**Next week's hymns: 491, 494, 622, 492, 532, 493**

**NO Midweek Bible Study** this week as Pastor is away at the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees meeting. We'll jump back in to Acts chapter 20 next week. See you then!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in or sponsored us in the Walk-Run-Ride for Life this year! As of the printing of this bulletin, Assist was nearing its goal of raising \$75,000 and the Lutherans for Life team was the top fundraising team! Great job! Lutherans love life!

**(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!

**Premier Conference for Lutheran Laity** . . . You're invited to attend the 2026 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference, Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist, LCMS President Matt Harrison, Megan Basham of The Daily Wire, Pastor Will Weedon of The Word of the Lord Endures Forever, Erin Hawley of Alliance Defending Freedom and YouTuber Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller. Registration is \$160 and includes three meals. Reduced room rates, including on-campus dorms, are available. For more information, visit [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org) or call (618) 223-8385.

**Life Thought:** "If you're a single parent, don't count yourself out ... If you're widowed or divorced, don't count yourself out. If you've never married, don't count yourself out. We sinners are all in this together. We want to see the relevance of faith for our daily lives. We hear the religious talk and we humbly ask, 'How does this apply to me?' The answer is that the glory of Christ's resurrection is for us all. It continues in the message of forgiveness and hope we experience each time we gather together." *Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Speaker Emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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. Please plan to stay, even if you were unable to attend in March – we want all to participate. And yes, we'll provide lunch! For more information, please take one of the blue flyers on the back table, or speak with Jay Hertel or Scott Killian.

**Opportunity for Service:** Every Sunday we need to set up our church. This means taking down everything the Adventists use and bringing up everything that is needed for our Divine Service. It's a lot of work! Could you help with this? We begin usually around 8:30 so that everything is in place by Bible Class and Sunday School time. Thanks!

**Opportunity for Study:** Bible Study isn't only for Sundays! Join us on Wednesday night at 7:00 to spend more time in the Word of God. You don't even have to leave home! This study is offered on our WebEx video conferencing service. Go to <[saint-athanasius.org/WebExInstr.html](http://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**

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