

**Daily Devotions for Home and Family**  
*For the week of The Resurrection of Our Lord*  
April 20 through April 26

**FAITH**

**Chapter 17. The Nature of Error. All Error is Not Hurtful, Though It is Man's Duty as Far as Possible to Avoid It.**

For although we ought with the greatest possible care to avoid error, not only in great but even in little things, and although we cannot err except through ignorance, it does not follow that, if a man is ignorant of a thing, he must immediately fall into error. That is rather the fate of the man who thinks he knows what he does not know. For he accepts what is false as if it were true, and that is the essence of error. But it is a point of very great importance what the subject is in regard to which a man makes a mistake. For on one and the same subject we rightly prefer an instructed man to an ignorant one, and a man who is not in error to one who is. In the case of different subjects, however — that is, when one man knows one thing, and another a different thing, and when what the former knows is useful, and what the latter knows is not so useful, or is actually hurtful — who would not, in regard to the things the latter knows, prefer the ignorance of the former to the knowledge of the latter? For there are points on which ignorance is better than knowledge. And in the same way, it has sometimes been an advantage to depart from the right way — in travelling, however, not in morals. It has happened to myself to take the wrong road where two ways met, so that I did not pass by the place where an armed band of Donatists lay in wait for me. Yet I arrived at the place whither I was bent, though by a roundabout route; and when I heard of the ambush, I congratulated myself on my mistake, and gave thanks to God for it. Now, who would not rather be the traveller who made a mistake like this, than the highwayman who made no mistake? And hence, perhaps, it is that the prince of poets puts these words into the mouth of a lover in misery: How I am undone, how I have been carried away by an evil error! for there is an error which is good, as it not merely does no harm, but produces some actual advantage. But when we look more closely into the nature of truth, and consider that to err is just to take the false for the true, and the true for the false, or to hold what is certain as uncertain, and what is uncertain as certain, and that error in the soul is hideous and repulsive just in proportion as it appears fair and plausible when we utter it, or assent to it, saying, Yea, yea; Nay, nay,— surely this life that we live is wretched indeed, if only on this account, that sometimes, in order to preserve it, it is necessary to fall into error. God forbid that such should be that other life, where truth itself is the life of the soul, where no one deceives, and no one is deceived. But here men deceive and are deceived, and they are more to be pitied when they lead others astray than when they are themselves led astray by putting trust in liars. Yet so much does a rational soul shrink from what is false, and so earnestly does it struggle against error, that even those who love to deceive are most unwilling to be deceived. For the liar does not think that he errs, but that he leads another who trusts him into error. And certainly he does not err in regard to the matter about which he lies, if he himself knows the truth; but he is deceived in this, that he thinks his lie does him no harm, whereas every sin is more hurtful to the sinner than to the sinned against. ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapter 17

## ***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 – 118:15-29**

### **The Catechism – *Christian Questions With Their Answers***

*10. Did the Father also die for you?*

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

*11. How do you know this?*

From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

### **Daily Readings:**

Sunday, April 20 – Hebrews 7:23—8:13 (*Commemoration of Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor; The Feast of the Resurrection; suggested add'l reading: Mark 16:1-8*)

Monday, April 21 – Hebrews 9:1-28 (*Commemoration of Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian*)

Tuesday, April 22 – Hebrews 10:1-18

Wednesday, April 23 – Hebrews 10:19-39

Thursday, April 24 – Hebrews 11:1-29 (*Commemoration of Johann Walter, Kantor*)

Friday, April 25 – Hebrews 12:1-24 (*Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist; suggested add'l reading: Mark 16:14-20*)

Saturday, April 26 – Hebrews 13:1-21

**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...Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; 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; Gail Acker; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Hubert Bauer; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Lucy Decker; Ed Doepp; Charlie Erb; Holly Erb; Carol Foth; Richard Frenz; Barbara Helwig; Olivia Hintz; Arthur Holden; Shannon Hole; Kelly Housto; Marilyn Jorg; Beth Keating; Bill Kopf; Dorothy Mistler; Robert Mohl; Joe Pinz; Evan Powers; Alice Ryan; Peggy Salamone; Lisa Schantz; Charlene Schneeberg; Judy Scott; Carol Shaw; Judy Smith; Gertrude Tutorius; Ingrid Vessie; Patrice Vitalino; Jack Whitehouse; Edward Zerbe

**Armed Forces:** Gregory D'Alessandro; Jose & Emma Camacho; 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 – *He's Risen, He's Risen*

*LSB #480, st. 1*

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

### 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:

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*1 John 5:4-10*

*John 20:19-31*