



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23 through August 29, 2020*

Jesus asks, “Who do people say the Son of Man is,” and the answers reveal once again that in a world where everybody is entitled to their own opinion, anything goes! Following their reason, shootin’ from the hip and going with their hunches, everybody gets it wrong! Only Peter who hears the Word and confesses Jesus according to what *He* says gets it right. Likewise, if it is the righteousness of God and the Light of His salvation that you seek, you too must “listen to Him” (Is. 51:1), “give attention to Him” (Is. 51:4), and “give ear to Him” (Is. 51:4) so that you confess Him rightly: Jesus IS the Christ, the Son of the living God who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the appointed verse and portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 23	Psalm 111:1-3, 9-10	1 Kings 3:1-15	2 Cor. 1:1-22
Monday, August 24	Psalm 27:1, 7-11	1 Kings 5:1-18	2 Cor. 1:23—2:17
Tuesday, August 25	Psalm 32:1-7	1 Kings 7:51—8:21	2 Cor. 3:1-18
Wednesday, August 26	Psalm 36:7-12	1 Kings 8:22-30, 46-63	2 Cor. 4:1-18
Thursday, August 27	Psalm 72:1-7	1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13	2 Cor. 5:1-21
Friday, August 28	Psalm 48:1-8	1 Kings 11:1-26	2 Cor. 6:1-18
Saturday, August 29	Psalm 17:6-14	1 Kings 11:42—12:19	2 Cor. 7:1-16

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – AUGUST 23, 2020

Theme: We seek God with our ears, coming to His Word where we find Jesus as the revelation of His love and the fulfillment of His promise of a Savior for us.

Hymn: 836, “O God of Light”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 51:1-6: Is it the Lord you seek? Listen (v1)! Is it His righteousness you desire? Give ear (v4)! Is it His salvation, comfort, and rescue you want? Then pay attention (v3-5)! Simply receive His Word as the gift of grace by which you have the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus and confess Him rightly for life everlasting.

Romans 11:33-12:8: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God,” a wisdom which He has made known by His Word, the revelation of His love and forgiveness in Christ for our life and salvation. “Do not be conformed to this world,” but to the Word of God by which the Holy Spirit renews your mind and reveals what is good and acceptable and perfect (12:2).

Matthew 16:13-20: When Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, it is not because of his reason or intellect that he gets it right, but because of the Holy Spirit working through the Word (v17). Wherever this Word is taught in its truth and purity, and wherever this confession is heard, there is the Church (v18).

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

2 Timothy 3:15: “From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART II)

(Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.)

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 138 (ESV)

Meditate on this Psalm every day when you pray, and use it as the starting place for your own prayer:

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 138¹:

Renewed thanks do we return unto You, O Father of mercy, for all Your loving-kindness toward us; and chiefly, because You have called us into the kingdom of Your Son, our Savior. Cleanse us from sin by His blood, and remember not our transgressions against us. Do not forsake the work of Your own hands that, delivered from our enemies, we may evermore praise you. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

¹ Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH, 2007

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER – (From LSB page 294)

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT CHRIST:

Prayer Family: *Lindberg Moore* and his loved ones

Francis Dillon, who is being evaluated for a swollen foot

Charles Hopper, a friend of Mark Ochs who is recovering from back surgery

Ronnie Willis, Jo Rudsenske's brother with metastatic cancer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Luther's Morning Prayer:

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.