



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13 through September 19, 2020*

We are often wronged, and it is natural to demand justice. Yet, such a demand for justice can become an unwillingness to forgive another. Rather, we want what is ours, that is, what we think we deserve. Christ took on all our sin, becoming sin for us, and, in his Passion, we tormented Him with that suffering which we ourselves deserved. Yet he is the Lord of Mercy, and forgave us all our sin, even as we must forgive one another.

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

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| Sunday, Sept. 13 | Psalm 27:7-13 | 2 Chron. 32:1-22 | Col. 1:1-23 |
| Monday, Sept. 14 | Psalm 38:6-16 | 2 Chron. 33:1-25 | Col. 1:24-2:7 |
| Tuesday, Sept. 15 | Psalm 1 | 2 Chron. 34: 1-33 | Col. 2:8-23 |
| Wednesday, Sept. 16 | Psalm 108:1-6 | 2 Chron. 35:1-25 | Col. 3:1-25 |
| Thursday, Sept. 17 | Psalm 130 | 2 Chron. 36:1-23 | Col. 4:1-18 |
| Friday, Sept. 18 | Psalm 118:5-14 | Neh. 1:1-2:10 | 1 Tim. 1:1-20 |
| Saturday, Sept. 19 | Psalm 136:1-9 | Neh. 2:11-10; 4:1-6 | 1 Tim. 2:1-15 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Theme: Christ is both the servant who must pay for his debt, and the King who has the power to forgive that debt.

Hymn: 607, “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

Summary of Readings:

Genesis 50:15-21: Joseph holds not the evil of his brethren against them, but forgives them, understanding that only God sits in the seat of judgment.

Romans 14:1-12: We should do all things unto the glory and praise of the name of the Lord. Whatever we do in thankfulness to God is good, as long as it be done in thankfulness, and whatever another does or does not do in thankfulness to God is good, as long as it is done in thankfulness. Thus we are not to judge the disciplines and practices of another, as long as they proceed from a true faith and thankful heart.

Matthew 18:21–35: Our Lord tells the parable of the unforgiving servant, who himself was forgiven a massive debt by his master, but will not forgive a petty debt to a friend.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Acts 2:38-29a: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART IV)

(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 does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 103:1-12 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ²Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. ⁶The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: ⁸The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 103¹:

Father of light, we praise You because You forgive iniquity and do not reward us according to our sins. What You promised to the fathers You have fulfilled in Your Son. As the east and the west can never come together, so remove our sins far from us, that they can be accounted to us no more, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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: *The Nelson Family* and their loved ones

Jeff McWilliams, friend of Jo Rudsenske, who has been diagnosed with coronavirus

Our Nation, as we remember September 11th and all those affected by it

Eric Phillips, friend of the Fields, who had emergency open-heart surgery last week

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.