



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20 through September 26, 2020*

The Old Adam is always telling God how to do the business of His Kingdom. In the parable of the vineyard, the workers seek a relationship with the Master on their terms, insisting that things be done by way of rewards and benefits based on works. But God's ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts – and in the economy of God, the benefits come by grace alone.

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, Sept. 20	Psalm 46	Neh. 4:7-23	1 Tim 3:1-16
Monday, Sept. 21	Psalm 55:12-19	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16	1 Tim. 4:1-16
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Psalm 133	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Tim. 5:1-16
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Psalm 51:5-13	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
Thursday, Sept. 24	Psalm 123	Neh. 9:22-38	1 Tim 6:3-21
Friday, Sept. 25	Psalm 51:5-13	Mal. 1:1-14	Matt. 3:1-17
Saturday, Sept. 26	Psalm 16	Mal. 2:1-3:5	Matt. 4:1-11

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Theme: “Our ways” seek salvation as a reward, but “God’s ways” deliver salvation as a gift.

Hymn: 555, “Salvation Unto Us Has Come”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 55:6-9: “Let the wicked forsake his way” = Contrition... “Let him return to the Lord for pardon” = Faith. Contrition + Faith = Repentance, which is the way of life and salvation for all who are called into God’s Kingdom by grace.

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30: For Paul, to live is Christ, and to die is gain (v21). That’s the “Win-Win” situation for all believers who rejoice in the labor they are called to in Christ’s Vineyard/Kingdom.

Matthew 20:1-16: God’s ways are not our ways – This becomes clear in the parable where those who work the longest and hardest don’t “deserve” any greater rewards than those who are called at the 11th hour. For the blessings of God are for ALL who simply respond to the call of the Gospel and take their place in His Kingdom by grace.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

THE CATECHISM: CONFESSION (PART I)

(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 is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 27:1-9 (ESV)

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

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.” ⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 27¹:

Lord, our God, You are merciful and kind, true and faithful. Preserve us in Your Word, and guard Your Church against all oppressors and faithless leaders. Grant peace to our country, and wisdom to our government to protect right and truth, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: *Beulah Nunnery* and her loved ones

Mary Holowach, who was admitted to the hospital this week for acute illness

Hugh Hunt, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization

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

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.