



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27 through October 3, 2020*

*Why will you die? Turn and live! (Ezekiel 18:31-32)*

Repentance seems so out-of-date, so out-of-touch with the reality of the world around us. The language of repentance seems ancient and irrelevant, bringing to mind images of John the Baptist, or worse, of those shaggy guys on the street who rant at the passers-by. In fact, if you want to attract people to the church, the last thing you want to do is talk about sin and repentance – or so the devil, the world, and your sinful flesh would have you believe! Because the truth is, repentance, i.e. turning from your sin to go the way of God’s forgiveness by faith in Christ’s atoning sacrifice, IS the way from death to life everlasting. So why die, when you can *turn* from your sin *and live!*

### **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. 27	Psalm 91:9-16	Mal. 3:6-4:6	Matt. 4:12-25
Monday, Sept. 28	Psalm 145:17-21	Deut. 1:1-18	Matt. 5:1-20
Tuesday, Sept. 29	Psalm 19:7-14	Deut. 1:19-36	Matt. 5:21-48
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Psalm 119:161-168	Deut. 1:37-2:15	Matt. 6:1-15
Thursday, Oct. 1	Psalm 130	Deut. 2:16-37	Matt. 6:16-34
Friday, Oct. 2	Psalm 3	Deut. 3:1-29	Matt. 7:1-12
Saturday, Oct. 3	Psalm 119:9-16	Deut. 4:1-20	Matt. 7:13-29

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

**Theme:** Turning from the “No” of our sin to the “Yes” of Christ’s righteousness restores us to our place in the Father’s vineyard.

**Hymn:** 704, “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

### Summary of Readings:

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32:** When a righteous person turns from righteousness and does injustice, he shall die (v26). When a wicked person turns from wickedness and does what is right, he shall live (v27). The Lord God would like to see us all turn and live (v32).

**Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18:** Paul’s encouragement to act like a Christian can also serve as a mirror to show us our sin and our never-ending need for repentance. Are you blameless and innocent, never grumbling or questioning, always shining as a light for the world (v14-15)? If not, repent!

**Matthew 21:23-27:** With the parable of the two sons, Jesus shows us the way back into the Father’s vineyard through repentance, turning us from the “No” of our sin to the “Yes” of contrition and faith by which we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Psalm 51:1-2:** “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”

## **THE CATECHISM: CONFESSION (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 sins should we confess?* Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

*Which are these?* Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 25:1-10 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. <sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. <sup>6</sup>Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! <sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. <sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. <sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 25<sup>1</sup>:**

O Lord, our most merciful Father in heaven, be gracious to us and forgive us our sins. Rule in our hearts by Your Spirit, that we may hate and forsake all manner of evil. Restrain our enemies who would deprive us of our salvation, and be to us, and Your whole Church on earth, a very present help in time of need. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:**

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> 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: *Mark Ochs* and his loved ones

*Kenny Solheim*, friend of the Fuhrers, who is recovering from heart surgery

*John Unger*, Jenny Merry's uncle, who has been hospitalized

*The family and friends of Marion Wassum*, who has entered eternal rest

## **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.