



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8 through November 14, 2020*

In not too much time, Our Lord shall say to us during the Advent and Christmas seasons ‘Comfort, comfort, ye my people’, but as we go through the last weeks of the Church Year, Christ gives us for our meditation a different message: ‘Watch.’ ‘Be vigilant.’ In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Our Lord urges us to not slip into complacency, or even worse, hypocrisy and false piety, but to keep watch for His coming, being prepared to greet Him with our faith undefiled and our love alight.

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, Nov. 8	Psalm 143	Jer. 20:1-18	Matt. 24:29-51
Monday, Nov. 9	Psalm 147:1-11	Jer. 22:1-23	Matt. 25:1-13
Tuesday, Nov. 10	Psalm 24	Jer. 23:1-20	Matt. 25:14-30
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Psalm 143:1-10	Jer. 23:21-40	Matt. 25:31-46
Thursday, Nov. 12	Psalm 137	Jer. 25:1-18	Matt. 26:1-19
Friday, Nov. 13	Psalm 116:12-19	Jer. 26:1-19	Matt. 26:20-35
Saturday, Nov. 14	Psalm 53	Jer. 29:1-19	Matt. 26:36-56

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Theme: Keep the faith and live in love, for the Lord may return at any moment.

Hymn: 516, “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

Summary of Readings:

Amos 5:18-24: Amos accuses Israel for its hypocrisy, in that it kept all the religious feasts and sacrifices commanded by Moses in outward obedience to God, but inwardly, they were unrighteous and faithless. Thus, even their seeming outward obedience is hateful before the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: St. Paul instructs us about the Second Coming of the Lord, and of the Resurrection of the Dead, that we might not mourn death as others, but see in the death of the faithful their ultimate redemption.

Matthew 25:1-13: Jesus tells a parable about ten virgins who await a coming bridegroom. Half were prepared with oil to greet him, half were not. When the bridegroom arrives, the half which had oil were welcomed into the wedding feast, but the half who were not prepared were shut out. Thus, all who consider themselves Christians must ever keep watch for his coming in true faith.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Act 14:22: “Continue in the faith... We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 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.)

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 70 (ESV)

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

¹Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! ²Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! ³Let them turn back because of their shame who say, “Aha, Aha!” ⁴May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!” ⁵But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 70¹:

It is proper and right for all on earth to give glory to You, O Father of mercy, because You sent Your Son to war against, and to overcome, our enemies. Endow us with strength and fortitude never to despair in the strife with the powers of darkness, but at all times grant us victory and perseverance through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS:

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same 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: *Chuck Rubisoff* and his loved ones

David Entrekin, friend of Mark Ochs, who is recovering from coronavirus

Else Keil, mother of Rush Agent's employee, who has stage four colon cancer

Bob Slay, friend of the Fuhrers, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic 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.