



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20 through December 26, 2020*

It has always been the way of our God to choose the lowliest of men, of women, of nations, those that the world derides, to carry out His will and to be His own. This He has done throughout the Old Testament, and in today's Gospel reading He does again, choosing the Virgin Mary to bear His Son, and through Him, we, who also are lowly, might be chosen to be brought to everlasting life through Him.

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, Dec. 20	Psalm 119:25-32	Is. 40:18—41:10	Rev. 8:1-13
Monday, Dec. 21	Psalm 102:24-28	Is. 42:1-25	Rev. 9:1-12
Tuesday, Dec. 22	Psalm 115:1-8, 11	Is. 43:1-24	Rev. 9:13— 10:11
Wednesday, Dec. 23	Psalm 39:4-8	Is 43:25—44:20	Rev. 11:1-19
Thursday, Dec. 24	Psalm 98:1-6, 9	Is. 44:21—45:13, 20- 25	Rev.12:1-17
Friday, Dec. 25	Psalm 96:1-5, 11-13	Is. 49:1-18	Matt. 1:1-17
Saturday, Dec. 26	Psalm 34:4-10, 19	Is. 49:22-26; 50:4—51:8, 12-16	Matt. 1:18-25

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 20, 2020

Theme: God has chosen us in Christ through the Gospel, even as He has chosen the lowly throughout all time to be His servants.

Hymn: 356, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Summary of Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16: King David desires to build God a temple. God responds that, whether or not David builds Him a temple is of little importance, for God cares not for earthly dwellings made with hands, but for the redemption of His people.

Romans 16:25–27: St. Paul commends the Church to the one true God, and to the revelation of His Son Jesus Christ, until the end of the age.

Luke 1:26–38: The angel Gabriel appears before Mary, and announces to her that she shall bear the Christ.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Acts 2:38-39: “Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus 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: THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

(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 the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 89:1-5, 19-29 (ESV)

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

¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ²For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." ³You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ⁴"I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! ¹⁹Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: "I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, ²¹so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. ²²The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. ²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted. ²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.' ²⁷And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. ²⁹I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 89¹:

Lord Jesus, we thank You for calling us by Your Gospel into Your kingdom of grace. Grant that we be members not of Your visible Church only, but of the invisible community of saints, living temples of Your Spirit. Keep us steadfast in the true faith, and finally receive us into Your kingdom of eternal glory. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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: *Keeley Tatum* and her loved ones

Eleanor Koster, Mary Atchley's mother, who was diagnosed with coronavirus

Michael Martin and Bobbie Mutter, who are recovering from coronavirus

Elmira Roeber, who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip

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.