



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21 through March 27, 2021*

No one desires suffering. No one seeks death. Indeed, suffering and death are those two things which we fear the most. And yet, the Saints of the Church declaim their faith in their fearlessness towards death, and their calm in the midst of suffering. But the saints do not do this out of great willpower and strength. They do so because they know that Christ has transformed suffering and death, destroying their terrors, and making them into the path of Christian character and the gate of heavenly glory.

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, March 21	Psalm 129	Ex. 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
Monday, March 22	Psalm 31:9-14	Ex. 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
Tuesday, March 23	Psalm 39:1-7	Ex. 2:23—3:22	Mark 14:53-72
Wednesday, March 24	Psalm 18:6-7, 16-20	Ex. 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
Thursday, March 25	Psalm 69:33-36	Ex. 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
Friday, March 26	Psalm 22:1-5	Ex. 5:1—6:1	Mark 15:33-47
Saturday, March 27	Psalm 78:52-55	Ex. 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 21, 2021

Theme: Christ has transformed suffering and death through His own suffering and death, stripping them of their power over those whom He claims as His own through His Baptism and His blood.

Hymn: 685, “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Summary of Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31–34: The Lord promises a new covenant, wherein all His people shall have His holy and righteous Law written upon their hearts.

Hebrews 5:1–10: Christ is a new high priest, superior those established under the old covenant, who intercedes on behalf of mankind before His Father in heaven.

Mark 10:35-45: The sons of Zebedee ask Jesus to be given places of honor in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Lord tells them that, though they do not know what they ask, yet nevertheless, they shall receive it. Then Jesus instructs the disciples that those who would come after Him must be as He is: a servant to all.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Mark 10:45: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FIRST PETITION 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.)

Hallowed be Thy name.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 119:9-16 (ESV)

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

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹²Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! ¹³With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. ¹⁴In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. ¹⁶I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

LUTHER'S PREFACE TO PSALM 119:9-16¹:

Beloved Father in heaven, You are blessed for granting us the Word of Your grace, in which You have revealed to us Your will concerning our salvation. Teach us to love Your Word, diligently to hear and willingly to learn it, that guided by this lamp our feet may walk in the way everlasting. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: The *Bowman Family* and their loved ones

Krista Hansford, as she continues to recover

Charles Hopper, friend of Mark Ochs, who has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure

Jon Sandberg, Merina Hansen's brother, who is recovering from 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.