



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday of Easter
April 11 through April 17, 2021*

How are we to understand the demand of Thomas, that he will not believe unless he sees the Lord in the flesh, and feels His wounds? Does he doubt? Or is there some other reason Thomas seems to speak such faithless words? The reality is that it does not matter why Thomas said what he said, for Thomas is not the center of this narrative, but Christ, who answers every question and fulfills every need in Himself and through His glorified flesh.

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, April 11	Psalm 119:9-16	Ex. 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
Monday, April 12	Psalm 146	Ex. 22:20—23:13	Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday, April 13	Psalm 26:1-3, 8-12	Ex. 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
Wednesday, April 14	Psalm 99:1-5	Ex. 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
Thursday, April 15	Psalm 119:25-32	Ex. 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
Friday, April 16	Psalm 92:1-9	Ex. 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
Saturday, April 17	Psalm 106:16-23	Ex. 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 4, 2021

Theme: In the Body of Christ is found all faith, joy, and understanding.

Hymn: 471, “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 4:32–35: The Apostles hold all things in common, giving to those in the Church each according to their need, all the while preaching the Gospel, and making many converts.

1 John 1:1—2:2: St. John describes the true Gospel of forgiveness, apart from which there can be no communion among those who profess themselves to be Christians, but by which all who believe in it are made into one Church and one Communion.

John 20:19–31: Christ reveals himself to the disciples, and to Thomas, who confesses Christ as God after touching the wounds of His body.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 20:31: “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD’S PRAYER: THIRD PETITION 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.)

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 148 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. ⁶And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. ⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, ⁸fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹²Young men and maidens together, old men and children! ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

LUTHER’S PREFACE TO PSALM 148¹:

The 148th Psalm is a Psalm of thanks that excites and exhorts all creatures in heaven and earth to praise God – especially His saints who worship Him, that is, have His Word and worship. Rightfully, all of creation should be nothing but a tongue, always praising this great goodness of God. If you want to know how good a thing is, then take whatever you will and say: “If there were no fire...” or “If there were no sun...”; “If there were no woman...”; and so on. Then you will see why one should thank God.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: *Bill Cookston* and their loved ones

Michael Ahlemeyer, a pastor in Vestavia Hills, AL, who is recovering from coronavirus

Brian Atchley, who is ill and undergoing medical tests

Eloise Springer, who will have surgery for her gall bladder

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.