



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25 through May 1, 2021*

Christ identifies Himself as our Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His flock. He and He alone does this, and there could be no other. Yet He makes it clear that He lays down His life of His own authority and own accord, that He might raise it up again, for being sinless, Satan has no accusation against Him, and being God, death has no grasp over Him. And it is precisely for these reasons that He, and He alone, is the one Shepherd of the one flock of the Church.

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

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| Sunday, April 25 | Psalm 45:4-8a | Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36 | Luke 9:1-17 |
| Monday, April 26 | Psalm 119:129-138 | Lev. 9:1-24 | Luke 9:18-36 |
| Tuesday, April 27 | Psalm 25:1-10 | Lev. 10:1-20 | Luke 9:37-62 |
| Wednesday, April 28 | Psalm 19:7-14 | Lev. 16:1-24 | Luke 10:1-22 |
| Thursday, April 29 | Psalm 17:7-15 | Lev. 17:1-16 | Luke 10:23-42 |
| Friday, April 30 | Psalm 119:1-8 | Lev. 18:1-7, 20— 19:8 | Luke 11:1-13 |
| Saturday, May 1 | Psalm 36:7-12 | Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37 | Luke 11:14-36 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 25, 2021

Theme: Christ, and Christ alone is the one Good Shepherd of the one flock of His Church.

Hymn: 709, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 4:1–12: The high priests bring St. Peter and the disciples before them to question them about how a cripple was healed. They proclaim the resurrection and power of Christ to these authorities.

1 John 3:16–24: St. John teaches the faith in its most simple form: that we believe in Jesus Christ, and love one another, and in our love for one another, confess our faith in Him.

John 10:11–18: Christ declares Himself to be the Good Shepherd, that lays down His life for the Church, that He might take up His life again for them, and so save them from sin and death.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 23:1: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FOURTH 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.)

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 23 (ESV)

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

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 23¹:

Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good Shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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: *Joan Cowards* and her loved ones

Cheryl Bodkin, who is recovering from surgery on her foot

Arlene Kleinschmidt, Margaret Haynes's sister, whose doctors have detected tumor spots which may indicate returning cancer

Elmira Roever, who is recovering from an infection

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.