



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
May 16 through May 21, 2021*

Christ came to fulfill a perfect human life, to endure all that we endure, and to complete all that we were to complete. And yet, our human nature is not complete in merely keeping God's law and living a sinless life, but in being glorified to live with the Father forever. In the Ascension, Christ accomplishes this as man, and forever unites God and man together.

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, May 16	Psalm 81:10-16	Num. 14:1-25	Luke 18:18-34
Monday, May 17	Psalm 146:5-9	Num. 14:26-45	Luke 18:35— 19:10
Tuesday, May 18	Psalm 111	Num. 16:1-22	Luke 19:11-28
Wednesday, May 19	Psalm 118:19-25	Num. 16:23-40	Luke 19:29-48
Thursday, May 20	Psalm 80:14-19	Num. 16:41—17:13	Luke 20:1-18
Friday, May 21	Psalm 78:9-16	Num. 20:1-21	Luke 20:19-44
Saturday, May 22	Ps. 116:1-4, 16-19	Num. 20:22—21:9	Luke 20:45— 21:19

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MAY 16, 2021

Theme: In His Ascension, Christ completes the true purpose of man, in bringing human nature into the Godhead.

Hymn: 491, “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 1:1–11: St. Luke introduces the book of Acts, and describes the Ascension of Our Lord.

Ephesians 1:15–23: St. Paul encourages the Church, that we might live unto the power and dominion of Christ, which He inherited in His Ascension, subduing all created things under His feet.

Luke 24:44–53: Christ opens to those He is with the true meaning of the Old Testament, that all things written in it are of Him.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 73:26: “My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: SIXTH PETITION

(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.)

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 47 (ESV)

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

¹Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! ²For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. ³He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. ⁴He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah ⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! ⁸God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. ⁹The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 47¹:

Thanks and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, for Your triumphant ascension to heaven, by which we know that Your work of redemption is finished and mansions are prepared for us in which we shall be Your associates forever. Draw our affections after You that, dying to the world, we may look to those things which are above. Grant the light of Your Gospel to those sitting in darkness, and spread Your kingdom to the remotest isles. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD:

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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: *Cecelia Dorsey* and her loved ones

2021 Graduates, as they embark upon the next phase of life

Brelon Starnes, Gloria Pedersen's cousin, who is recovering from surgery

Eloise Springer, as she recovers from eye surgery

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.