



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25 through July 31, 2021*

The sea has always represented the chaotic, uncaring, even evil forces of the world. Billowed up by winds, it consumed and drowns all men who dare to go too far into it. For this reason, the devil himself is called ‘the prince of the power of the wind.’ Christ sends His disciples into the sea, to be tested by waves, even as He sends His Church into the sea of this world, to be tossed and tried. Yet all the same, He comes to us in our hour of need, treading upon the waters, as a traveler upon a path, and when we cry out to Him, He in compassion comes to us, for He is in us, and we are in 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

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| Sunday, July 25 | Psalm 63:1-8 | 1 Sam. 9:1-27 | Acts 21:37— 22:16 |
| Monday, July 26 | Psalm 69:30-35 | 1 Sam. 10:1-27 | Acts 22:17-29 |
| Tuesday, July 27 | Psalm 119:17-24 | 1 Sam. 12:1-25 | Acts 22:30-23:11 |
| Wednesday, July 28 | Psalm 59:1-5 | 1 Samuel 13:1-18 | Acts 23:12-35 |
| Thursday, July 29 | Psalm 119:41-48 | 1 Samuel 14:47—15:9 | Acts 24:1-23 |
| Friday, July 30 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 1 Samuel 15:10-35 | Acts 24:24— 25:12 |
| Saturday, July 31 | Psalm 80:14-19 | 1 Samuel 16:1-23 | Acts 25:13-27 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 25, 2021

Theme: Though we are tested in this life in many and various ways, Christ holds the victory over all such demonic temptations and comes to us in our time of need.

Hymn: 763, “When Peace, Like a River”

Summary of Readings:

Genesis 9:8–17: God makes His covenant with Noah by the rainbow, that never again will He destroy mankind by the waters.

Ephesians 3:14–21: St. Paul encourages the Church, reminding us of the infinite depth of the love of God, which we are recipients of through faith.

Mark 6:45–56: After feeding the five-thousand, Christ commands His disciples to cross the sea by themselves. Yet when they are troubled upon the sea, He comes to them, and comforts them, and brings them safely to the other side.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Ephesians 3:17-19: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

THE CATECHISM: OFFICE OF THE KEYS (PART 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.)

What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven” (John 20:22-23).

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 136:1-9 (ESV)

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

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ²Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. ³Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁴to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁵to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁶to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁷to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁸the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 136¹:

My Father, God of mercy and truth, to Your mercy do I look for deliverance from sin and death. Your mercy will I plead before Your judgment seat. Your mercy will I sing all the days of my life. Have mercy upon us, and forgive us our transgressions, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; 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 *Hansford Family* and their loved ones

Jake Burkhalter, who is recovering from strep

Yvones Townes, Eloise Springer's daughter, who has been hospitalized for medical tests

John Weidner, Jr., the Weidners' son, who is returning home from his military deployment

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.