



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19 through December 25, 2021*

The Lord our God has made to us, His people, countless promises, that He would purify us of our sin, redeem us from our captivity, and save us from the devil. In the incarnation of His Son, the fulfillment of all these promises is at hand.

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, Dec. 19	Psalm 103:11-18	Is. 40:1-17	Rev. 7:1-17
Monday, Dec. 20	Psalm 119:25-32	Is. 40:18—41:10	Rev. 8:1-13
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Psalm 102:24-28	Is. 42:1-25	Rev. 9:1-12
Wednesday, Dec. 22	Psalm 115:1-8, 11	Is. 43:1-24	Rev. 9:13—10:11
Thursday, Dec. 23	Psalm 39:4-8	Is 43:25—44:20	Rev. 11:1-19
Friday, Dec. 24	Psalm 98:1-6, 9	Is. 44:21—45:13, 20-25	Rev.12:1-17
Saturday, Dec. 25	Psalm 96:1-5, 11-13	Is. 49:1-18	Matt. 1:1-17

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 19, 2021

Theme: In Christ, the fulfillment of all the Word of God is begun.

Hymn: 357, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Summary of Readings:

Micah 5:2–5: The Lord promises the coming of the Messiah in the town of Bethlehem.

Hebrews 10:5–10: By the offering of Christ’s body will we be redeemed, and our bodies sanctified.

Luke 1:39–45: Holy Mary visits St. Elizabeth, who blesses her and rejoices.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: INTRODUCTION

(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.)

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 80 (ESV)

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

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 80¹:

Blessed be Your holy name, O Lord God of heaven, because You have planted in our land that noble vine, the Christian Church. Cause it to grow and to spread forth its branches, that it may overshadow the land and bring forth prolific fruit for the good of our nation, and the salvation of many, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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: *Mark Ochs* and his loved ones

Miriam Ethridge, Natalie Rudsenske's grandmother, who has unexpectedly been placed on hospice

The Family of Arlene Kleinschmidt, Margaret Haynes's sister, who has entered eternal rest

The Family of Justin May, coworker of Keith Martin, who has entered eternal rest

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.