



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday in Lent
March 20 through March 26, 2022*

“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from our wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has *“no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live”* (Ezek. 33:11). So the Scriptures have been *“written down for our instruction,”* (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not perish in the way of evil but trust in Christ. For it is Jesus who stands between us and the wrath of God, that we may bear the fruit of repentance and live.

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, March 20	Psalm 129	Gen. 27:30-45; 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13
Monday, March 21	Psalm 38:13-15, 21-22	Gen. 29:1-30	Mark 9:14-32
Tuesday, March 22	Psalm 105:5-11	Gen. 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
Wednesday, March 23	Psalm 31:1-5	Gen. 37:1-36	Mark 10:1-12
Thursday, March 24	Psalm 106:44-48	Gen. 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
Friday, March 25	Psalm 49:1-3, 7-10	Gen. 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52
Saturday, March 26	Psalm 11	Gen. 41:1-27	Mark 11:1-19

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 20, 2022

Theme: The inevitable wages of sin is death, but when you repent and receive God’s forgiveness in the gifts of Christ crucified and risen, yet shall you live.

Hymn: 572, “In the Shattered Bliss of Eden”

Summary of Readings:

Ezekiel 33:7-20: God sends Ezekiel to turn His people from their wicked idolatry, that they may live in His forgiveness. For God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their sin and live.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13: Even after God rescued His people from death in Egypt and set them on the path to victory and new life in the Promised Land, they turned from Him to go the way of idolatry and immorality. For that reason, they were destroyed. Let this be a lesson for us all, lest we too go the way of unrepentant sin and fall.

Luke 13:1-9: The Pharisees view the world through the eyes of self-righteous judgment, assuming that those who die tragically are being punished for a particular sin. But Jesus makes it clear that we will ALL die, and that unless we turn (repent) to confess our sin (contrition) and trust in His righteousness (faith) for our salvation, then dead is what we will remain for eternity.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (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 Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 85 (ESV)

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

- ¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah
- ³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- ⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- ¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 85¹:

Remember not, O God, our transgressions against us, and record not our sins in Your book, but cast them into the depth of the sea, and remember them no more forever. Impute to us the obedience of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled all righteousness for us and gave Himself a sacrifice for our sins. Let us live for His sake, and enable us to walk worthy of our calling. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT:

O God whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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: *Sheryl Taylor* and her loved ones

Charles Cowards, who is undergoing a medical procedure

The Family of Sandra Landers, Sabrina Goodlett's mother, who has entered eternal rest

Eugene Rodgers, Eloise Springer's nephew, who is recovering from a stroke

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.