



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 18 through September 24, 2022*

On this day we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It may seem odd to 'celebrate the cross' as it is not a person in the Bible, nor an event in the life of Christ and the Church, but it should not be, for what we are really celebrating is God's promise to preserve His Church, symbolized by the Holy Cross, throughout all time, and into all eternity. On this day, what we truly recognize is the faithfulness of God to His people.

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, Sept. 18 | Psalm 136:1-9 | Neh. 2:11-10; 4:1-6 | 1 Tim. 2:1-15 |
| Monday, Sept. 19 | Psalm 46 | Neh. 4:7-23 | 1 Tim 3:1-16 |
| Tuesday, Sept. 20 | Psalm 55:12-19 | Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16 | 1 Tim. 4:1-16 |
| Wednesday, Sept. 21 | Psalm 133 | Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18 | 1 Tim. 5:1-16 |
| Thursday, Sept. 22 | Psalm 51:5-13 | Neh. 9:1-21 | 1 Tim. 5:17-6:2 |
| Friday, Sept. 23 | Psalm 123 | Neh. 9:22-38 | 1 Tim 6:3-21 |
| Saturday, Sept. 24 | Psalm 136:1-9 | Neh. 2:11-10; 4:1-6 | 1 Tim. 2:1-15 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Theme: On this day we celebrate God's fidelity to His Church and His people, now and forevermore.

Hymn: 430, “My Song Is Love Unknown”

Summary of Readings:

Numbers 21:4-9: Having been freed from Egypt, the people of Israel grumble against Moses, and so the Lord sends serpents to chastise them for their faithlessness. But God gives His people salvation from the serpent’s venom through a bronze serpent raised up upon a staff.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25: St. Paul extols the wisdom of God, which seems to be foolishness before the world.

John 12: 20-33: Christ speaks of the hour of His glorification, wherein He will be lifted up and draw all people unto Himself.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 12:32: “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE’S CREED: SECOND ARTICLE

(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 does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 40:1-11 (ESV)

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

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! ⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. ⁶In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. ⁷Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: ⁸I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” ⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. ¹¹As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 40¹:

We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter suffering and painful death, whereby You purchased us from the pangs of eternal death. Thanks be to You that You have sent us the Word of Your salvation. Preserve it with us pure and unadulterated, and whenever we hear or read it, reveal Yourself to us as the Savior of our souls. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow 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: *The Haines Family* and their loved ones

The Family of Hosea Cistrunk, Eloise Springer's nephew, who has entered eternal rest
Michelle Harrison, the Holowaches' daughter, who is due with their third child in October

Stephen, Nichole, and baby Parker, Nancy Tatum's son and family, who welcomed baby Parker into their family last week

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.