



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 2 through October 8, 2022*

The Lord gives us some very confusing commands, some of which seem impossible to actually keep. What are we to make of this? The answer is to be found in a little verse in the middle of the Gospel reading for today, where Our Lord speaks of having faith *like a grain of a mustard seed*. What does that mean? Well, we are prone to focus on how small a mustard seed is, and think Jesus is saying ‘even if you had the tiniest amount of faith, you could speak to the tree.’ But if that were the case, Jesus could have mentioned any seed, for they are all small. Rather, He wants us to focus on the mustard part of a mustard seed. Particularly its flavor; particularly its heat. Pure mustard burns like fire (just think of the use of mustard gas during war), and in this case, the mustard seed Jesus speaks of is the Holy Spirit. All that He commands, the Holy Spirit will carry out through the Church and her servants.

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, Oct. 2	Psalm 3	Deut. 3:1-29	Matt. 7:1-12
Monday, Oct. 3	Psalm 119:9-16	Deut. 4:1-20	Matt. 7:13-29
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Psalm 80:1-7	Deut. 4:21-40	Matt. 8:1-17
Wednesday, Oct. 5	Psalm 86:1-10	Deut. 5:1-21	Matt. 8:18-34
Thursday, Oct. 6	Psalm 91:9-16	Deut. 5:22-6:9	Matt. 9:1-17
Friday, Oct. 7	Psalm 121	Deut. 6:10-25	Matt. 9:18-38
Saturday, Oct. 8	Psalm 126	Deut. 7:1-19	Matt. 10:1-23

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – OCTOBER 2, 2022

Theme: By the Holy Spirit, the Church will forever continue the work of teaching, forgiving, baptizing, and feeding the body of Christ.

Hymn: 647, “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

Summary of Readings:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4: When the prophet asks God why He allows sin and suffering to continue, he is reassured that the Lord has got everything under control, and that those who remain righteous by faith shall live.

2 Timothy 1:1-14: St. Paul, writing from prison where his persecutors not doubt gloat over the apparent weakness of his God, is not ashamed to suffer for the Gospel, but proclaims forgiveness and expresses his confidence in God, even from the chains that bind him.

Luke 17:1-10: After Jesus commands the disciples to continue forgiving sinners, they request more faith, acknowledging their inability to forgive as they should, and trusting in Christ to provide for all they need.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Acts 14:22: “Continue in the faith... Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE'S CREED: THIRD 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 I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 62 (ESV)

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

¹For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ²He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. ³How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? ⁴They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. ⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. ⁸Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. ⁹Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. ¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. ¹¹Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, ¹²and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 62¹:

Lord, our God, our sure refuge in need, grant us to love one another, and to honor and obey those You have placed over us. But teach us by Your Spirit to trust alone in You, and not to make flesh our arms, that we may look to You alone for our salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; 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

Chuck Haynes, who is recovering from a heart procedure last week

Noah Schultz, the Fields' nephew, who will be receiving a tracheostomy

Linda Stoeckman, friend of the Weinders, who continues to recover

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.