



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord  
December 25 through December 31, 2022*

During this Christmas season, we celebrate the Incarnation, God taking on human flesh. Yet Christian theologians have asked for centuries the question ‘*cur deus homo*,’ That is, ‘why did God become man.’ It is a fair question. Did He really need to? Was there not a way to save or guide or rule us that did not require Him to get involved in all the mess of our world? There are a thousand sound, biblical, scholarly answers to this question. But on this day it is enough to understand that God became man in Jesus because He good, He is our king, and He loves us.

### **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. 25	Psalm 96:1-5, 11-13	Is. 49:1-18	Matt. 1:1-17
Monday, Dec. 26	Psalm 34:4-10, 19	Is. 49:22-26; 50:4—51:8, 12-16	Matt. 1:18-25
Tuesday, Dec. 27	Psalm 72:1, 4, 10-15, 18-19	Is. 51:17—52:12	Matt. 2:1-12
Wednesday, Dec. 28	Psalm 9:11-14	Is. 52:13—54:10	Matt. 2:13-23
Thursday, Dec. 29	Psalm 78:1-7	Is. 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
Friday, Dec. 30	Psalm 89:1-4, 14-18	Is. 58:1—59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, Dec. 31	Psalm 111:1-6, 10	Is. 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 25, 2022

**Theme:** God became man to fulfill the greatest of the commandments.

**Hymn:** 361, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

### Summary of Readings:

**Isaiah 52:7–10:** “All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God” – a promise that is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. For that reason, we “Break forth into singing... for the LORD has comforted His people.”

**Hebrews 1:1–6:** “The Son *is* the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power”! You want to see God? Look to Jesus, His Christ, “through whom also He created the world.”

**John 1:1–14:** “In the beginning, the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God” – two persons, Father and Son, revealed for us by the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. “We have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**John 1:1-3:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: SEVENTH PETITION**

*(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.)*

### **But deliver ✠ us from evil.**

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 2 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." <sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. <sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, <sup>6</sup>"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." <sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

### **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 2<sup>1</sup>:**

Thanks be unto You, O Lord Jesus Christ, because You were once dead, and by Your blood redeemed us from sin and everlasting torment. We desire to serve You all the days of our life. Preserve us in the midst of so many enemies, and by Your mighty hand preserve us for Your eternal kingdom! Amen.

### **COLLECT FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD:**

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> 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: *David & Michelle Miller* and their loved ones

*The Family of Richard Bradley*, Mimi's husband, who has entered eternal rest

*Dana Brunson*, friend of Ben & Natalie Rudsenske, who is recovering from medical complications following the delivery of her baby

*The Family of John Mosley*, Mark Ochs's friend, 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.