



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday of Advent
December 11 through December 17, 2022*

To the Romans, the word *Gospel* meant news of victory over an enemy. This was the reason why St. Mark, the author of the Gospel of Mark, chose this term to title his book, for he was writing about the victory of Jesus Christ over all the enemies of this world: over sin, death, the devil, and the unbelieving world. Where sin and Satan had brought slavery and guilt, Jesus would bring freedom and forgiveness. This is the Kingdom of God.

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. 11	Psalm 5:1-8	Is. 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21
Monday, Dec. 12	Psalm 106:1-5	Is. 29:1-14	Jude 1-25
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Psalm 89:20-29	Is. 29:15—30:14	Rev. 1:1-20
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Psalm 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	Is. 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29
Thursday, Dec. 15	Psalm 146:1-7	Is. 30:27—31:9	Rev. 3:1-22
Friday, Dec. 16	Psalm 149	Is. 32:1-20	Rev. 4:1-11
Saturday, Dec. 17	Psalm 40:1-5, 16-17	Is. 33:1-24	Rev. 5:1-14

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 11, 2022

Theme: Christ comes bringing the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of forgiveness and peace, which shall have no end.

Hymn: 348, “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10: In the coming of the Messiah who gives sight to the blind and restores life in the wilderness, all sorrow and sighing shall flee away, and we shall return to paradise with singing and everlasting joy.

James 5:7-11: Until that Day when our Lord returns and raises us to the glorious fulfillment of His promises, James encourages us to remain patient and steadfast in the faith that trusts in Him.

Matthew 11:2-15: Surrounded by sin and death in prison, John returns to the source of His hope and joy, clinging to the Word of our Lord and His promises in every time of need.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Isaiah 2:4: “He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FIFTH 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.)

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 146 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

PRAYER ON PSALM 146¹:

Many times have You, O Lord, our God, been our help in the time of need. Many times You have guarded us in danger and kept us from evil. Thanks and praise to You for Your merciful kindness. Withdraw not Your hand from us because of our sins, but remember Your great mercy, and let Your grace and help be with us at all times, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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: *Bailey Martin* and her loved ones

Michele Cookston Fowler, Bill Cookston's daughter, who is ailing from Parkinson's disease

Ryan Koher, friend of Mark Ochs, who is being held as a missionary prisoner in Mozambique

Larry Taylor, Natalie Rudsenske's grandfather, who is ill

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.