



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord
January 8 through January 14, 2023*

We complete our travel with the magi as we examine the gifts of the magi, gifts of great wisdom, and even of prophecy: Gold, for Christ's kingship; incense, for Christ's sacrifice for us; and myrrh, for Christ's victory over death. In these gifts, the Epiphany of our Lord is made to us gentiles: that he is our king, our redemption, and our savior.

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, Jan. 8 | Psalm 19:1-6, 9-11, 14 | Ezek. 2:1—3:11 | Rom. 1:18-32 |
| Monday, Jan. 9 | Psalm 62:5-12 | Ezek. 3:12-27 | Rom. 2:1-16 |
| Tuesday, Jan 10 | Psalm 85:1-13 | Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32 | Rom. 2:17-29 |
| Wednesday, Jan. 11 | Psalm 7:1-5, 8-11 | Ezek. 33:1-20 | Rom. 3:1-18 |
| Thursday, Jan. 12 | Psalm 63:3-11 | Ezek. 34:1-24 | Rom. 3:19-31 |
| Friday, Jan. 13 | Psalm 32:1-7 | Ezek. 36:13-28 | Rom. 4:1-25 |
| Saturday, Jan. 14 | Psalm 104:27-30 | Ezek. 36:33—37:14 | Rom 5:1-21 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 8, 2023

Theme: In the magi’s gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we recognize Christ as king, priest, and redeemer against sin, death, and devil.

Hymn: 400, “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-16: Isaiah prophesies of the coming of the gentile nations to the Messiah.

Ephesians 3:1-12: St. Paul reveals that the Gospel is also to the gentiles as well as the Jews, and that, by revelation, he has been made an evangelist unto the gentiles.

Matthew 2:1-12: The magi come seeking the young Christ, and are asked by the manic Herod to find the child on his behalf. Finding the child, and recognizing in him their redemption, they rejoice, but return home without telling Herod.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

2 Corinthians 5:17: ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.’

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 72:1-14 (ESV)

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

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! ²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! ⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! ⁹May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust! ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! ¹²For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. ¹³He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. ¹⁴He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 72¹:

To You, our heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts with joyous thanks, because You have granted us the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom we have everlasting life. Preserve in us this saving knowledge, that we may hear His voice with joy, and may go with Him into His eternal kingdom. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD:

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: *Jenny Merry* and her loved ones

Cathy McDonald, friend of the Weidners, who is ill

The Family of John Mosley, friend of Mark Ochs, who has entered eternal rest

Dave Teal, who is hospitalized

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.