



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord
January 29 through February 4, 2023*

In Isaac, God declared that He demanded of humanity a perfect sacrifice, wholly pleasing unto Him, to atone for the sin of Adam, and of all flesh which proceeded from him. Isaac would ultimately be declared unfit. Yet in Christ, the true Isaac, the true beloved Son of the Father, has come to us, that we might be cleansed by His blood; that death might be overthrown by His descent.

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, Jan. 29	Psalm 107:1-9	Zech. 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Monday, Jan. 30	Psalm 33:18-22	Zech. 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Tuesday, Jan. 31	Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14	Zech. 10:1—11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17
Wednesday, Feb. 1	Psalm 28	Zech. 11:4-17	2 Tim. 4:1-18
Thursday, Feb. 2	Psalm 75	Zech. 12:1—13:9	Titus 1:1—2:6
Friday, Feb. 3	Psalm 47	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7—3:15
Saturday, Feb. 4	Psalm 127	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 29, 2023

Theme: Christ shall accomplish the sacrifice begun in the binding of Isaac.

Hymn: 431, “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

Summary of Readings:

1 Samuel 1:21–28: Hannah sacrifices on behalf of her son and presents him to Eli, who declares him to be a chosen instrument of God.

Hebrews 2:14–18: Christ took on flesh that He might die in the flesh, and in His death, destroy him who has the power of death, that is, Satan. Yet while in the flesh, He is tempted even as we are, that He may know our suffering.

Luke 2:22–32: The infant Christ is presented at the temple, and the sacrifice of the poor is offered for him. While there, Simeon embraces him, and cries out the *Nunc Dimittis*.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART III.II)

(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.)

Titus 3:5-8: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 84 (ESV)

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

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. ³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. ⁴Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! ⁵Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. ⁶As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. ⁷They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. ⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! ¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 84¹:

Praise and thanks to You, Lord, our God, because You have granted us Your Word which shows us the way of salvation. By Your Holy Spirit work effectively in us through this Your Word, that it may prove in us a living and fruitful seed bringing a hundredfold, and that the fruit remain to eternal life. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD:

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through 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: *The Nelson Family* and their loved ones

Mary Atchley, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery

The Family of April Palmer, friend of the Rudsenskies, who has entered eternal rest

Noah Schultz, the Fields' nephew, who is hospitalized with pneumonia

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.