



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The First Sunday in Lent  
February 26 through March 4, 2023*

In Adam, man fell, for we longed to be divine apart from God's will. Ever since then, we have rebelled against God's will, seeking a world of our own making. And in this fallen world which we desired, we make idols of all that has power in this world, that we might subjugate them to our own service, that we might have pride and power. This is the history of humanity. Christ, the Son of Man, has come to rewrite this history. He shall not long for divinity, but take on humanity. He shall not rebel against God's law, but fulfill it. He shall not serve the manifold idols that we create, but destroy them. In so doing, the Son of Man shall be what humanity was always meant to be. And by meekness before God, we shall once more become His image and likeness, ruling over all creation, even as Adam was intended to.

### **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, February 26	Psalm 79:5-9	Gen. 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28
Monday, February 27	Psalm 2	Gen. 6:1—7:5	Mark 3:1-19
Tuesday, February 28	Psalm 104:1-9	Gen. 7:11—8:12	Mark 3:20-35
Wednesday, March 1	Psalm 74:10-17	Gen. 8:13—9:17	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday, March 2	Psalm 107:23-32	Gen. 11:27— 12:20	Mark 4:21-41
Friday, March 3	Psalm 73:25-28	Gen. 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
Saturday, March 4	Psalm 32:1-5	Gen. 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43

### A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 26, 2023

**Theme:** In Christ’s ministry, He lives the life that man was meant to live, and obeys God as man was meant to obey, that He might truly be both the Son of God and the Son of Man.

**Hymn:** 424, “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

#### Summary of Readings:

**Genesis 3:1–21:** Adam and Eve are tempted in the Garden of Eden by the serpent and fall into sin against God.

**Romans 5:12–19:** St. Paul teaches about Christ being the Second Adam, who shall accomplish what the first Adam failed to do: that is, be obedient unto God, and so rule over the world in humbleness.

**Matthew 4:1–11:** Our Lord is tempted in the wilderness with three trials by the devil.

#### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Romans 5:19:** “For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.”

## **THE CATECHISM: OFFICE OF THE KEYS (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 the Office of the Keys?* The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

*Where is this written?* This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:22-23).

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 32:1-7 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. <sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. <sup>6</sup>Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. <sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

## **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 32<sup>1</sup>:**

O God, our heavenly Father, with whom is grace and much forgiveness, be merciful to us who were born in sin and cannot but sin and fall short every day. Forgive us our many transgressions and account them against us no more, but make us Your heirs through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who was delivered into death for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT:**

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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: *Bob & Sheila Pfaff* and their loved ones

*Mary Atchley*, who continues to recover from knee surgery

*Ryan Kohler*, friend of Mark Ochs, who is imprisoned in Africa for missionary work

*Reagan Lam*, friend of Jo Rudsenske, who has undergone surgery for a broken hand

## **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.