



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 5 through February 11, 2023*

Our Lord this week teaches us what it means to be within the Church. We are taught that it means being born of water and the Spirit. We are also taught that it means to be made into a light unto the world, and a city on a hill. Yet it is strange to be told that we are to be a city. In what way are we to be a city on a hill? We are to be a city on a hill just as Jerusalem is a city on a hill. We are to be a city like Jerusalem, a city with a Temple, a city which offers a sacrifice.

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, Feb. 5	Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24	Job 2:1—3:10	John 1:19-34
Monday, Feb. 6	Psalm 77:1-3, 7-12, 15	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
Tuesday, Feb. 7	Psalm 4	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
Wednesday, Feb. 8	Psalm 69:1-4, 8-9, 24, 29-30	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
Thursday, Feb. 9	Psalm 23:1-5	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
Friday, Feb. 10	Psalm 38:1-3, 6, 9-11, 21-22	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22—4:6
Saturday, Feb. 11	Psalm 147:1-3, 6-11	Job 7:1-21	John 4:7-26

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Theme: Last week at the Presentation of Our Lord, we learned *who* shall be sacrificed; and having understood this, we now know that the Church shall be the *place* where that one sacrifice shall be offered unto the end of the age.

Hymn: 419, “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 58:3–9: The Lord instructs Israel about true penitence and fasting, the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart.

1 Corinthians 2:1–12: St. Paul teaches the centrality of the crucifixion of Christ to the faith; that all hinges upon this.

Matthew 5:13–20: The Lord compares His Church to salt, to light, and to a city.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

James 2:10: “Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART IV)

(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 does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
(Romans 6:4)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 112:1-9 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! ²His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. ⁶For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. ⁷He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. ⁸His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. ⁹He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 112¹:

O Lord, the Reward of them that fear You, and the Defense of Your people, who in Your Son, Jesus Christ, has promised grace and everlasting righteousness to them that believe, establish our hearts by Your grace that, rooted in the faith of Your Word, we may be able to stand in the day of trial. Strengthen us to resist the enticing lust of sin, and to triumph over Satan, death, and hell through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: *Beulah Nunnery* and her loved ones

Mary Atchley, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery

Cathy McDonald, friend of the Weidners, who is ill

Nikki Vines, Michelle Miller's sister, 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.