



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19 through March 25, 2023*

Our Lord approaches a blind man. His disciples ask Him, who sinned, the man or his parents? The Lord replies that neither did. Rather, the man was born blind that God's glory may be manifested in the restoration of his sight. In this, we see Christ as the creator. Yet, in the act of creation, God not only speaks the world into existence, but imposes order upon it by dividing one thing from another. The Gospel reading ends with an eschatological vision, that Christ's final act of dividing, His last act of 'creating' will be to divide those who believe from those who refuse to believe.

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, March 19	Psalm 60:1, 9-12	Gen. 41:28-57	Mark 11:20-33
Monday, March 20	Psalm 3	Gen. 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday, March 21	Psalm 37:16-20	Gen. 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday, March 22	Psalm 26:1-7	Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
Thursday, March 23	Psalm 82	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
Friday, March 24	Psalm 77:11-15	Gen. 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37
Saturday, March 25	Psalm 44:1-4	Gen. 49:29—50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 19, 2023

Theme: The Lord shall complete all that He has created, and make holy His Church, separating them from the unbelievers.

Hymn: 738, “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 42:14–21: The Lord shows His righteous wrath against the proud while promising the weak and the blind His deliverance.

Ephesians 5:8–14: St. Paul encourages the Church to walk as those who live in the light, having abandoned the ways of darkness.

John 9:1-41: Christ heals the blind man, who goes and tells the Pharisees about the miracle. The Pharisees refuse to believe that Christ did this by His divine power, for He did it on the Sabbath. Therefore Christ tells them that if they refuse to believe what they have clearly seen, they will be judged, even as the one who was blind, but now sees, was redeemed.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 10:27-28: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 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.)

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 142 (ESV)

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

¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. ²I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. ³When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. ⁴Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul. ⁵I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." ⁶Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me! ⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 142¹:

“Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, bought dearly with your blood; Protect what You have chosen against the hellish flood. Be always our defender when dangers gather round; When all the earth is crumbling, safe may Your Church be found.” (LSB 658:3)

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: *Laura Rawson* and her loved ones

Nathan Brown, Lori Held's uncle, who is recovering from surgery

Gary Goodlett, Allen's brother, who is in the ICU

William McCain, friend of Mark Ochs, who is recovering from a severe motorcycle accident

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.