



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord
March 26 through April 1, 2023*

On this day we celebrate the conception of Our Lord, which is calculated from being exactly nine months previous to His birth on Christmas. Yet, we believe this to be the day of His conception only because we know March 25th to be the day of His death. It may seem to us a mere pious superstition of past ages to believe that a prophet died on the day He was conceived, but even if it is just a superstition, it is an instructive one to us, for it shows us that Christ was conceived that He might be sacrificed *for us men and for our salvation*. He was born, that He might die for us.

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 26	Psalm 129	Ex. 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
Monday, March 27	Psalm 31:9-14	Ex. 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
Tuesday, March 28	Psalm 39:1-7	Ex. 2:23—3:22	Mark 14:53-72
Wednesday, March 29	Psalm 18:6-7, 16-20	Ex. 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
Thursday, March 30	Psalm 69:33-36	Ex. 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
Friday, March 31	Psalm 22:1-5	Ex. 5:1—6:1	Mark 15:33-47
Saturday, April 1	Psalm 78:52-55	Ex. 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 26, 2023

Theme: Christ was conceived of the virgin Mary that the final sacrifice might be offered for our sins.

Hymn: 356, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-14: The Messiah and His birth by a virgin are prophesied.

Hebrews 10:4-10: The author of Hebrews proclaims that the sacrifices of the Old Covenant are now fulfilled and thus completed in the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Luke 1:26-38: The angel Gabriel announces to the blessed virgin Mary that she shall conceive and bear a son by the Holy Spirit, the Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Luke 1:38: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR III

(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 benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 45:7-17 (ESV)

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

⁷you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; ⁸your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; ⁹daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir. ¹⁰Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house, ¹¹and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him. ¹²The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people. ¹³All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. ¹⁴In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. ¹⁵With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. ¹⁶In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. ¹⁷I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 45¹:

Lord Jesus, our King and Savior, make us Your citizens, and so guide and govern us that, as loyal subjects, we may serve You in true faith and a good conscience all the days of our life. Adorn our souls with Your righteousness—the white robe in which we shall be found pleasing to Your Father and worthy to dwell with Him. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION:

O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; 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: *Leslie Ridlehoover* and her loved ones

Nancy Jones, Curt Dickens's mother, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Jerri Parker, Eloise Springer's granddaughter, who is recovering from an injured foot

Johnny Tatum, Nancy's brother-in-law, who is in hospice

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.