



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30 through May 6, 2023*

Christ is the Good Shepherd, yet we are only His sheep if we hear His voice. In the same way, we are only His people if we hear His Word, and keep it above all else. The world is filled with idols which also speak to us, which seduce us by their promises. These idols with their lies our Lord has come to vanquish, and indeed He has done exactly this by His crucifixion and ever blessed resurrection.

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, April 30	Psalm 45:4-8a	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
Monday, May 1	Psalm 119:129-138	Lev. 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
Tuesday, May 2	Psalm 25:1-10	Lev. 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
Wednesday, May 3	Psalm 19:7-14	Lev. 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
Thursday, May 4	Psalm 17:7-15	Lev. 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
Friday, May 5	Psalm 119:1-8	Lev. 18:1-7, 20— 19:8	Luke 11:1-13
Saturday, May 6	Psalm 36:7-12	Lev. 19:9-18, 26- 37	Luke 11:14-36

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 30, 2023

Theme: Christ’s Words bring to silence the babble of the idols.

Hymn: 578, “Thy Strong Word”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 2:42–47: Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to a new life of participation in preaching, the Lord’s Supper, and the liturgy.

1 Peter 2:19–25: St. Peter encourages the Church to endure suffering as the Lord did, not returning evil for evil, but returning pain with blessing, for we have been redeemed by Him who suffered for us.

John 10:1–10: Jesus tells the parable of the sheepfold, wherein His disciples are equated to sheep who do not listen to the voice of robbers, but only to the voice of their shepherd.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THE CATECHISM: THE FIFTH AND SIXTH COMMANDMENTS

(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 Fifth Commandment? **You shall not murder.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

*What is the Sixth Commandment? **You shall not commit adultery.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 23 (ESV)

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

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 23¹:

Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good Shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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: *Daryl & Sherri Smith* and their loved ones

Marty May, friend of the Martins, who is undergoing shoulder surgery

The Family of Christy Singleton, a teacher in Brandon who passed away unexpectedly

Victims of the Oklahoma Tornadoes, as they recover

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.