



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of Palm Sunday
April 2 through April 8, 2023*

The Lord has entered His holy city in triumph, not as secular rulers, with wealth and slaves and pride in His train, but in humility, for He has come not as a ruler of lands, but as a deliverer of souls. For this reason He has returned to Jerusalem, to *deliver us from evil*.

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 2	Psalm 71:19-24	Ex. 8:1-32	Heb. 1:1-14
Monday, April 3	Psalm 35:1-6, 9-10	Ex. 9:1-28	Heb. 2:1-18
Tuesday, April 4	Psalm 88:3-9	Ex. 9:29—10:20	Heb. 3:1-19
Wednesday, April 5	Psalm 89:20-27	Ex. 10:21— 11:10	Heb. 4:1-16
Thursday, April 6	Psalm 37:1-7	Ex. 12:1-28	Heb. 5:1-14
Friday, April 7	Psalm 135:1-4, 8-9	Ex. 12:29-32; 13:1-16	Heb. 6:1-20
Saturday, April 8	Psalm 37:1-7	Ex. 13:17—14:9	Heb. 7:1-22

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 2, 2023

Theme: The Lord has come to *deliver us from evil*.

Hymn: 431, “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9a: The prophet writes of Jesus in His humility as He makes His way in passive obedience through the shame and disgrace of Good Friday to shed His blood on the cross.

Philippians 2:5-11: St. Paul contrasts the humiliation of Christ in His suffering with His exultation as risen and ascended Lord of heaven and earth. It is in the very act of Christ’s humiliation, suffering, and death that we know God’s love and confess Jesus as Lord.

John 12:20–43: The hour of our Lord’s Passion has come as. He must endure His Passion, that the world may be delivered from its slavery to sin, death, and the devil.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 6:54: “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 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.)

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 31:9-16 (ESV)

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

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also. ¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away. ¹¹Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. ¹²I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. ¹³For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. ¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! ¹⁶Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!

LUTHER’S PREFACE TO PSALM 31¹:

Lord Jesus, we thank You for taking from us that heavy load of our sins which we could not bear, but which You bore in Your own body on the tree, ransoming us from eternal death. Grant us patience and resignation in suffering with You, that we may willingly take up our cross daily and follow You through suffering to glory. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF PALM SUNDAY:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers 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: *Keeley Rimoldi* and her loved ones

All those who have suffered from tornadoes

The families and friends of the Nashville Shooting Victims

Cynthia Widlitze, Sabrina Goodlett's sister, who is recovering from recent medical emergencies

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.