



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7 through May 13, 2023*

Christ revealed Himself as the Son of God through signs and miracles, yet He did not do this because He thought it good, but because He thought it necessary, because of the hardness of our hearts. His miracles are not to be counted among His ‘greater works’, but rather His Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection, for by these, we are saved. These works, of enduring suffering and death and finally being exalted in the resurrection of the dead are the ‘greater works’ the baptized are promised.

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, May 7	Psalm 37:1-9	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday, May 8	Psalm 31:1-5	Lev. 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday, May 9	Psalm 127	Lev. 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday, May 10	Psalm 116:12-19	Lev. 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday, May 11	Psalm 52	Lev. 24:1-23	Luke 12:54— 13:17
Friday, May 12	Psalm 119:33-40	Lev. 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday, May 13	Psalm 63:1-5, 8-11	Lev. 26:21-33, 39-44	Luke 14:1-24

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MAY 7, 2023

Theme: We are saved not by miracles, but by the greater works of Christ’s death and resurrection.

Hymn: 724, “If God Himself Be for Me”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60: Stephen is chosen as the first deacon, and, having confessed his faith before the people, is stoned to death.

1 Peter 2:2–10: St. Peter teaches us that all who believe in Christ, who was rejected by the unbelieving, are in Him as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and have received His mercy.

John 14:1–14: The Lord teaches that whoever has known Him has known His Father. Yet His disciples doubt. However, He promises them that whoever shall believe in Him shall do greater works than He has done to the glory of the Father.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 15:7: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH 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 Seventh Commandment? **You shall not steal.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

*What is the Eighth Commandment? **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 146 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! ²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ³Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. ⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. ⁵Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 146¹:

Many times have You, O Lord, our God, been our help in the time of need. Many times You have guarded us in danger and kept us from evil. Thanks and praise to You for Your merciful kindness. Withdraw not Your hand from us because of our sins, but remember Your great mercy, and let Your grace and help be with us at all times, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: *Bobby & Eloise Springer* and their loved ones

Nancy Teal, who is recovering from hand surgery

Alli Thomas, Laura Rawson's daughter, who is experiencing heart problems

Terry Smith, the Haynes' brother-in-law, who is recovering from back surgery

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.