



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25 through July 1, 2023*

In the same way that the culture tempts us to think of the angels, the great army of heaven, as plump little fluttering children, or as young maidens playing harps, so does it seduce us to think that God is nothing more than a heavenly therapist who makes us feel good, and encourages us to make others feel good. However, this is not the God of the Bible. The God of Scripture is a dread Lord, and terrifying, for in Him lies every power and might. Yet this same God loves us, and uses all His power not to hurt us, but to save us from our sin, through Christ our Lord.

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, June 25	Psalm 119:41-18	Prov. 31:10-31	John 21:1-25
Monday, June 26	Psalm 31:19-24	Joshua 1:1-18	Acts 8:1-25
Tuesday, June 27	Psalm 51:1-9	Joshua 2:1-24	Acts 8:26-40
Wednesday, June 28	Psalm 89:24-29	Joshua 3:1-17	Acts 9:1-22
Thursday, June 29	Psalm 103:1-12	Joshua 4:1-24	Acts 9:23-43
Friday, June 30	Psalm 114	Joshua 5:1—6:5	Acts 10:1-17
Saturday, July 1	Psalm 47:1-7	Joshua 6:6-27	Acts 10:18-33

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JUNE 25, 2023

Theme: The Lord who *breaks the nations* shall also destroy the devil, and deliver us from evil.

Hymn: 539, “Christ Is the World’s Redeemer”

Summary of Readings:

Jeremiah 20:7–13: The prophet Jeremiah cries out the power and cunning of the Lord, and even confesses that he is confounded by it. Yet, while all around him denounce God, in faith he acknowledges that the Lord is on the side of His people.

Romans 6:12–23: St. Paul, having preached the freedom of forgiveness, urges us to no longer live as slaves to sin, but as free men, living unto God, and all the goodness and beauty which He has ordained.

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33: Christ prophesies about the fate of His disciples, that they shall be persecuted, but comforts them with the knowledge that even He was persecuted, yet even as His Father raised Him, so shall He raise His disciples.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Acts 14:22: “Continue in faith. We must through many tribulations enter into the kingdom of God.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE’S CREED: SECOND ARTICLE

(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.)

The Second Article: Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 91:1-10 (ESV)

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

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” ³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—¹⁰no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 91¹:

Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of faith, grant us the true and saving faith, and preserve us in the same against all temptations to doubt and unbelief. Blot out our iniquities by Your blood; cover our sins with Your righteousness, and let Your angels be a fenced wall around us against all our enemies, and evermore teach us to know the secret of Your Father’s will. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through 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: *The Agent Family* and their loved ones

Hunter Burkhalter, son of Chris's nephew, who is undergoing treatment for osteosarcoma

The Family of Cathy McDonald, who has entered eternal rest

All those recovering from damage due to recent weather

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.