



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 2 through July 8, 2023*

Christ says, *'I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.'* This is a troubling thing for us Christians, for we know that we must *love our neighbors as ourselves*. We do not like hearing of Jesus bringing a sword, of setting people against each other. But the Lord takes up the sword because in this fallen world, filled with fallen men, ruled by a fallen angel, things are not solved with mere words, but with the shedding of blood. Therefore Christ comes to shed His blood by the sword, that He may descend into hell with the sword to slay our ancient foe, that we may be saved.

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, July 2	Psalm 51:1-9	Joshua 7:1-26	Acts 10:34-48
Monday, July 3	Psalm 84:5-8	Joshua 8:1-28	Acts 11:1-18
Tuesday, July 4	Psalm 50:1-6	Joshua 10:1-25	Acts 11:19-30
Wednesday, July 5	Psalm 68:1-6	Joshua 23:1-16	Acts 12:1-25
Thursday, July 6	Psalm 100	Joshua 24:1-31	Acts 13:1-12
Friday, July 7	Psalm 2:1-8	Judg. 2:6-23	Acts 13:13-41
Saturday, July 8	Psalm 16:5-11	Judg. 3:7-31	Acts 13:42-52

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 2, 2023

Theme: By the shedding of Christ’s blood, we are forgiven, and by His death, He is conquers the powers of hell.

Hymn: 454, “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

Summary of Readings:

Jeremiah 28:5–9: Jeremiah prophesies about the eventual return of Israel from Babylon to the Holy Land, yet he warns that the way will not be easy; that God’s people will have to endure still more trials before they come to peace.

Romans 7:1–13: St. Paul teaches the Church that, though the Law reveals sin, and therefore condemns sin, it is not itself evil; rather sin is evil. Therefore, we who no longer live under the Law’s condemnation, are free to live into the righteousness revealed in the Law.

Matthew 10:34–42: Christ speaks to His disciples about the trials that shall befall them for His name’s sake, but encourages them that whoever holds fast to Him unto the end will be saved.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 8:18: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us.”

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.)

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 119:153-160 (ESV)

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

¹⁵³Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise!

¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your rules.

¹⁵⁷Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

¹⁵⁸I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands.

¹⁵⁹Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love.

¹⁶⁰The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 119:153-160¹:

Lord, our God, who has commanded us to pray, grant us that Spirit of prayer, who alone can teach us how to bring our petitions before You in acceptable manner. Cause Your Spirit to guide us, that we seek not self-chosen works after our own thoughts, but continue in Your Word that we may be found Your children indeed. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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: *Gary & Mary Atchley* and their loved ones

Shirley Bagley, relative of the Weidners, who is ill

The family and friends of Sam Johnson, friend of the Pedersens, who has entered eternal rest

Thomas Thornton, the Rudsenskies' neighbor, who is ill

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.