



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9 through July 15, 2023*

Even when we do not feel the presence of God, yet we are assured by His promises in Scripture, that He will return to us. Zechariah prophesied to a forlorn people who had just returned from exile, that the Lord would come to them in the building of the Temple. So shall He, when He does not seem near, return to us in our exile in the lost land of this life.

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 9	Psalm 138:1-6	Judg. 4:1-24	Acts 14:1-18
Monday, July 10	Psalm 125	Judg. 6:1-24	Acts 14:19—15:5
Tuesday, July 11	Psalm 5:1-8	Judg. 6:25-40	Acts 15:6-21
Wednesday, July 12	Psalm 118:10-18	Judg. 7:1-23	Gal. 1:1-24
Thursday, July 13	Psalm 71:1-8	Judg. 13:1-25	Gal. 2:1-21
Friday, July 14	Psalm 119:1-8	Judg. 14:1-20	Gal. 3:1-22
Saturday, July 15	Psalm 33:13-22	Judg. 15:1—16:3	Gal. 3:23—4:11

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 9, 2023

Theme: The Lord shall return.

Hymn: 348, “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Summary of Readings:

Zechariah 9:9–12: God promises the return of His presence to the Temple in Jerusalem, and brings His people back to Him from Exile.

Romans 7:14–25: We do the evil that we would not do, and do not do the good that we would do. This is the misery of living in our sinful flesh. But Christ delivers us from this all.

Matthew 11:25–30: Christ has declared His grace and forgiveness, not to the enlightened, but to commoners and simple people, that He might put pride to shame, and raise up the lowly.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 1:16: “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for all who believe.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE'S CREED: THIRD 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 Third Article: Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 145:1-14 (ESV)

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

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] ¹⁴The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 145¹:

Lord Jesus, my salvation, my light, my life divine, my only consolation, O make me wholly Thine! For Thou hast dearly bought me with blood and bitter pain. Let me, since Thou hast sought me, eternal life obtain. Amen. (LSB 689:2)

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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: The *Bruce Bodkin* and his loved ones

Hunter Burkhalter, son of Chris's nephew, who is being treated for osteosarcoma

Monique Jackson, friend of Jo Rudsenske, who is ill

The family and friends of Melvin McNair, Sr., the Pedersens' cousin, who has entered eternal rest

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.