



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16 through July 22, 2023*

The Lord preaches to us parable about the sowing of His word upon various soils, which represent our hearts. Some hearts do not receive the word, some do, but only for a time, and others embrace it. Though it is true, in the final reckoning, that some will be judged as faithful, having never accepted the word, some as weak, forever struggling with it, and some as martyrs, dying for the sake of Christ; in our lives, we all experience being ‘every kind of soil’ and having every kind of heart. Sometimes we are hard hearted, and disobedient. Sometimes we are enthusiastic about our faith, yet not steadfast. And sometimes, by the grace of our baptism, we cling to our God with our heart soul and mind. Regardless of the human weakness or the sanctified strength of our heart, the Lord sows His word into it, day by day, week by week, decade upon decade, 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 16	Psalm 21:1-7	Judg. 16:4-30	Gal. 4:12-31
Monday, July 17	Psalm 92:8-15	1 Sam. 1:1-20	Gal. 5:1-26
Tuesday, July 18	Psalm 20	1 Sam. 1:21—2:17	Gal. 6:1-18
Wednesday, July 19	Psalm 82	1 Sam. 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41
Thursday, July 20	Psalm 119:57-64	1 Sam. 3:1-21	Acts 16:1-22
Friday, July 21	Psalm 106:1-5	1 Sam. 4:1-22	Acts 16:23-40
Saturday, July 22	Psalm 137:1-7	1 Sam. 5:1—6:3, 10-16	Acts 18:1-11, 23-28

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 16, 2023

Theme: Regardless of the state of our heart, whether we be cynical or pious, the Lord sows His word, that the full number of His children may be saved.

Hymn: 610, “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 55:10–13: The prophet Isaiah speaks of the word of God as the rain that falls from heaven, causing every living thing to grow, even as the Lord’s word causes faith to grow.

Romans 8:12–17: St. Paul instructs us to put the flesh to death, and live by the spirit, that we may suffer with Christ, and in doing so, pass this life of anguish to live with the Lord forever.

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23: The Lord Christ preaches and explains the parable of the sower, and of the four soils.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament His handiwork.”

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.)

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 65:9-13 (ESV)

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

⁹You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. ¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. ¹¹You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. ¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, ¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 65¹:

Father of mercy, by Your gracious Spirit guide and govern us that we may use Your spiritual and temporal gifts aright. Preserve the estates You have instituted both for the eternal salvation and the temporal welfare of mankind, and by Your mighty arm hinder and destroy that revolutionary spirit of anarchy that would subvert Your order, and keep us in Your Word. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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: *Cheryl Bodkin* and her loved ones

MariLynn Fuhrer, who is continuing to recover from a broken hip

Richard & Jacqueline McGinnis, friends of the Teals, who are both experiencing health problems

Dennis Walters, friend of the Atchleys, who is recovering from a stroke

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.