



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 30 through August 5, 2023*

Our Lord teaches us of the great sacrifices that we must make if we are to take up our cross and follow him; that we must be as a man who sells all his possessions, or a merchant who trades all his goods, or a fisherman that discards most of his fish, if we are to inherit the great treasure of eternal life. We must endure persecution and mockery and poverty in this life that we might have glory in the life of the world to come. Yet this we do not do in order to earn salvation, but because we are imitators by our new birth in baptism of the one who first went in search of a great treasure in the world, and gave up all to gain it, that is, Christ Himself.

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 30	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Samuel 15:10-35	Acts 24:24— 25:12
Monday, July 31	Psalm 80:14-19	1 Samuel 16:1-23	Acts 25:13-27
Tuesday, August 1	Psalm 70	1 Samuel 17:1-19	Acts 26:1-23
Wednesday, August 2	Psalm 71:1-8	1 Samuel 17:20-47	Acts 26:24—27:8
Thursday, August 3	Psalm 68:4-10	1 Samuel 17:48— 18:9	Acts 27:9-26
Friday, August 4	Psalm 56:1-4	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44
Saturday, August 5	Psalm 21:1-7	1 Sam. 19:1-24	Acts 28:1-15

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 30, 2023

Theme: Even as Christ gave up all to gain us as His eternal people, so we must be able to give up all worldly comfort to be in Christ, into Whose image we are everyday being made.

Hymn: 713, “From God Can Nothing Move Me”

Summary of Readings:

Deuteronomy 7:6–9: The Lord declares Israel to be a people holy to Him, His own treasured possession, for He has delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians—and not because of any merit of their own, but out of His own love.

Romans 8:28–39: St. Paul encourages the Church, showing that no earthly trial or persecution can separate God’s elect from the love of Christ.

Matthew 13:44–52: The Lord tells three parables—that of the buried treasure, the pearl of great price, and of the fishermen’s nets—all of which describe the sacrifices Christians must make for the sake of eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 8:28: “We know that all things work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FIRST PETITION I

(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.)

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 125 (ESV)

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

¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

⁴Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⁵But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 125¹:

O Lord, who did not forsake Your people, who protected Zion with an outstretched arm, and defended Jerusalem with a mighty hand, restrain the wicked, convert the sinners, turn the hearts of our enemies, cover us with the shadow of Your wings, save Your Church in these perilous times, and always grant us the enjoyment of Your peace in Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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: *Mimi Bradley* and her loved ones

Paul Barnett, friend of Mark Ochs, who was hit by a plan propeller

Richard McGinnis, friend of the Teals, who is ill

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.