



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10 through September 16, 2023*

It is foolishness to men to risk the ninety-nine for the sake of the one. Such is simply bad investment. Yet our Lord is not making an investment. He has no concern over a return. Rather, He is reconciling all things unto Himself. For this reason, He seeks the least among us, the worst among us, for even the least are still in the image of God, and the worst are in His likeness. Nothing will tear them away from Himself. So He searches for the lost sheep, even as the ninety-nine remain back, for each and every image of God has infinite worth to Him, our Good Shepherd

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, Sept. 10	Psalm 58:1-8	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29	Phil. 2:12-30
Monday, Sept. 11	Psalm 44:1-8	2 Chron. 29:1-24	Phil. 3:1-21
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Psalm 94:12-15	2 Chron. 31:1-21	Phil. 4:1-23
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Psalm 27:7-13	2 Chron. 32:1-22	Col. 1:1-23
Thursday, Sept. 14	Psalm 38:6-16	2 Chron. 33:1-25	Col. 1:24-2:7
Friday, Sept. 15	Psalm 1	2 Chron. 34: 1-33	Col. 2:8-23
Saturday, Sept. 16	Psalm 108:1-6	2 Chron. 35:1-25	Col. 3:1-25

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Theme: The Lord seeks all who are made in His image, even the least and most sinful among us.

Hymn: 559, “Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion”

Summary of Readings:

Ezekiel 33:7-9: God appoints Ezekiel watchman for the house of Israel, entrusting him with the task of showing people their sin and God’s impending wrath, that they may turn from their sin and live.

Romans 13:1-10: The commandments may be summed up, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Surely, there is no greater love for neighbor than showing them their sin and peril, that they may repent and receive forgiveness for their life and salvation.

Matthew 18:1-20: God is concerned when even a single sheep goes astray, which is why He appoints shepherds to seek and to save the lost. Surely, we may all share in this privilege of turning sinners back into God’s waiting arms by speaking His Word of warning as well as His Word of promise.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 Timothy 1:15: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD’S PRAYER: FOURTH 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.)

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 32:1-7 (ESV)

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

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 32¹:

O God, our heavenly Father, with whom is grace and much forgiveness, be merciful to us who were born in sin and cannot but sin and fall short every day. Forgive us our many transgressions and account them against us no more, but make us Your heirs through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who was delivered into death for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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: *Francis Dillon* and his loved ones

The Family of Paul Hansen, Merina's brother, who has entered eternal rest

Carmen Hun, friend of the Weidners, who is ill

Bert Marshall, friend of the Haynes and Pedersens, 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.