



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 1 through October 7, 2023*

Christ is confronted by the Pharisees as He is teaching, they ask Him a question about whence His authority comes. Christ will only answer if the Pharisees first answer a very similar one, where did John's baptism come from? They cannot bring themselves to answer the obvious, for fear of taking a stand on either side. So Christ will not answer their curiosity. So does Christ now ask all souls the same question, yet about Himself, is Jesus from heaven, or from men? And all men must make their confession, lest they perish upon the way.

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, Oct. 1	Psalm 130	Deut. 2:16-37	Matt. 6:16-34
Monday, Oct. 2	Psalm 3	Deut. 3:1-29	Matt. 7:1-12
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Psalm 119:9-16	Deut. 4:1-20	Matt. 7:13-29
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Psalm 80:1-7	Deut. 4:21-40	Matt. 8:1-17
Thursday, Oct. 5	Psalm 86:1-10	Deut. 5:1-21	Matt. 8:18-34
Friday, Oct. 6	Psalm 91:9-16	Deut. 5:22-6:9	Matt. 9:1-17
Saturday, Oct. 7	Psalm 121	Deut. 6:10-25	Matt. 9:18-38

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – OCTOBER 1, 2023

Theme: The Law does not allow double mindedness when it comes to confessing Christ to be the Lord.

Hymn: 538, “Praise Be to Christ”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 5:1–7: The Lord sings of His people Israel as a vineyard that, though He did everything necessary to ensure its growth, grew only wild grapes, even as Israel, though it was given everything, stoned the prophets and killed the godly.

Philippians 3:4b–14: St. Paul instructs the Church to strive evermore toward the Kingdom; for He, being by birth godly in many ways, nevertheless considers his merits as worthless, and so continues on toward the prize of Christ Jesus in life eternal.

Matthew 21:33–46: Christ tells the Parable of the Vineyard, where the murderous tenants who ultimately kill the master’s son represent the teachers of Israel. The vineyard will be preserved, but those false teachers will be destroyed, and true teachers put in their place.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 Timothy 1:15: “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: SIXTH PETITION

(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.)

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 80:7-19 (ESV)

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

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁸You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. ¹⁰The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. ¹¹It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River. ¹²Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? ¹³The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. ¹⁴Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, ¹⁵the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁶They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face! ¹⁷But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! ¹⁸Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 80¹:

Blessed be Your holy name, O Lord God of heaven, because You have planted in our land that noble vine, the Christian Church. Cause it to grow and to spread forth its branches, that it may overshadow the land and bring forth prolific fruit for the good of our nation, and the salvation of many, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness 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: *Andy Evers* and his loved ones

Paul, Marie, and Tahlia Ferderer, the Holowaches' daughter and family, as Marie delivered Tahlia last week

Robert Kelly, friend of the Weidners, who is ill

The Family of Kay Latimer, friend of the Rudsenskies, 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.