



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Reformation
October 29 through November 4, 2023*

In our time, it is only too easy for us, as Christians, to lose our identity as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, and become entangled in the affairs of this world; to lose ourselves in politics and social problems, in ideologies and culture wars. Yet the Feast of the Reformation reminds us that these are all passing things, that they are not our ultimate concern, our ultimate goal, our ultimate love, and our ultimate end. Christ alone, and His kingdom is what we love, what we live for, and what we are destined to dwell forever in. The Reformation was the rediscovery of the Word of God and its Gospel, and unlike the kingdoms of this world, God's Word, and those who hear it, it will *never pass away*.

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. 29	Psalm 56	Deut. 31:1-29	Matt. 19:16-30
Monday, Oct. 30	Psalm 90:7-17	Deut. 31:20-32:27	Matt. 20:1-16
Tuesday, Oct. 31	Psalm 46	Deut. 32:28-52	Matt. 20:17-34
Wednesday, Nov. 1	Psalm 150	Deut. 34:1-12	Matt. 21:1-22
Thursday, Nov. 2	Psalm 118:22-24	Jer. 1:1-19	Matt. 21:23-46
Friday, Nov. 3	Psalm 15	Jer. 3:6-4:2	Matt. 22:1-22
Saturday, Nov. 4	Psalm 110	Jer. 5:1-19	Matt. 22:23-46

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – OCTOBER 29, 2023

Theme: The Church alone is eternal, and by the love of Christ she will outlast every ambition and machination of man.

Hymn: 656, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Summary of Readings:

Revelation 14:6–7: An angel appears in heaven before St. John, proclaiming the eternal Gospel of the Lord to every nation.

Romans 3:19–28: St. Paul teaches us that though the Law leads up to the Gospel, it cannot save us. Rather we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, and through His atoning work, which is the proclamation of the Gospel.

Matthew 11:12–19: The Christ condemns the generation for rejecting both the Himself and the prophets, recognizing not the divine Word in either of them.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 6:23: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART II)

(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 benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 46 (ESV)

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

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 46¹:

Thanks be to You, our Father, for all the mercy and truth that You have shown to us these many years. Grant Your Word to dwell with us continually, defend Your Church against all her enemies, keep us in Your grace, and preserve for us temporal and eternal peace through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE REFORMATION:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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: *Barbara Glenn* and her loved ones

Kim Hill, friend of the Martins, who is undergoing knee replacement surgery

Anita Martin, who is undergoing radiation for cancer

All throughout the world suffering from war and strife

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.