



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19 through November 25, 2023*

In these last weeks of the Church year, we have many readings about the wrath of God on the day of His coming, something we often find discomfoting. Yet this is for a reason: Christ comes to an unrighteous world in righteousness. The Church puts itself in the position of the ancient Israelites who awaited the Day of the Lord, knowing not if He would come in pity toward His fallen creation and its idolatry, or come in mercy to forgive it. For this reason, those who met the coming Christ threw themselves before Him, crying out ‘Lord have mercy!’ We—who know that God *is* mercy—put ourselves in their place, knowing God to also be a righteous God, that we might practice repentance at the Lord’s coming; that we may do well with what the Lord has given us in our baptism, and not bury the gift of salvation in the ground.

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, Nov. 19	Psalm 20	Jer. 38:1-28	Matt. 27:57-66
Monday, Nov. 20	Psalm 118:19-29	Dan. 1:1-21	Matt. 28:1-20
Tuesday, Nov. 21	Psalm 114	Dan. 2:1-23	Rev. 18:1-24
Wednesday, Nov. 22	Psalm 111	Dan. 2:24-49	Rev. 19:1-21
Thursday, Nov. 23	Psalm 39:4-12	Dan. 3:1-30	Rev. 20:1-15
Friday, Nov. 24	Psalm 41:7-12	Dan. 4:1-37	Rev. 21:1-8
Saturday, Nov. 25	Psalm 48:9-14	Dan. 5:1-30	Rev. 21:9-27

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Theme: Our Lord shall return to us, to receive from us the gifts first entrusted to us. Let us not therefore bury the gift of faith, but embrace it and love God, knowing that His return brings with it infinite joy to His Church.

Hymn: 743, “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Summary of Readings:

Zephaniah 1:7–16: The prophet speaks of the coming Day of the Lord, a day of great wrath, where those who attacked God’s people would be punished, and those of God’s people who became complacent would be judged.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11: St. Paul encourages the Church to keep the faith and not tired of waiting for the Resurrection of the Dead, strengthening us with the truth that we have been set apart for glory, not condemnation.

Matthew 25:14–30: Christ preaches a parable of a master who went away, and left talents of gold with three servants. Two of them invested the gold, and one buried it, fearful that he might lose it if he were to invest. Upon the master’s return, the two who invested the gold are rewarded with great joys, whereas the one who, in fear of the master, buried the gold underground, is punished in the outer darkness.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 51:1-2: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from sin.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (PART IV)

(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 such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 90 (ESV)

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

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. ⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? ¹²So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 90¹:

O Lord, eternal God, teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom, embracing Christ and His Gospel as Your wisdom and Your counsel for our salvation. Grant us grace to walk honestly as in the day that, when our last hour is come, we may be found in true faith and godliness, ready to appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: *Merina Hansen* and her loved ones

The Family of Max McGuire, friend of the Haynes, who has entered eternal rest

Doris Roberts, friend of the Pedersens, who is recovering from knee surgery

Tahlia Ferderer, the Holowaches' granddaughter, who continues to grow and gain strength in the hospital

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.