



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 26 through December 2, 2023*

The Great Day of the Lord is coming, when He will gather His flock to Himself, and be our shepherd and our God, unto the end of the age. This is the meaning of the End Times: that those whom the Lord has brought into His Church shall truly be His, and delight in His life eternally. Therefore, let us not doubt the goodness of our God in Christ, but rejoice forevermore.

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. 26	Psalm 75	Daniel 6:1-28	Rev. 22:1-21
Monday, Nov. 27	Psalm 66:16-19	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
Tuesday, Nov. 28	Psalm 102:13-17	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25
Wednesday, Nov. 29	Psalm 118:19-24	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
Thursday, Nov. 30	Psalm 123	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25
Friday, Dec. 1	Psalm 34:11-18	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	1 Peter 3:1-33
Saturday, Dec. 2	Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 8:9—9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Theme: Let us rejoice at the coming of our Lord, knowing that He comes to gather His sheep to Himself.

Hymn: 387, “Joy to the World”

Summary of Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24: The Lord declares the Day of His Coming, when He will gather His scattered sheep to Himself, and bind up the injured, and scatter the darkness beneath which they have wandered.

1 Corinthians 15:20–28: St. Paul teaches the Church of the coming of Christ, when all things will be subjected unto Him, and He shall be all in all.

Matthew 25:31–46: The Lord teaches a parable, of the sheep and the goats, and of the separating of those whom He shall take with Him into His eternal joy, and those whom He shall condemn.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Galatians 3:26-27: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many as you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

THE CATECHISM: CONFESSION (PART 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.)

What is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 95 (ESV)

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

¹Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ¹⁰For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.” ¹¹Therefore I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter my rest.”

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 95¹:

Lord Jesus, teach us to profit by the warning examples of others. So govern us that we do not harden our hearts, as did those at Meribah. Incline our hearts to Your Gospel, and enable us by Your good Spirit to receive with meekness the engrafted Word that is able to save the soul. Suffer us not, O Lord, to fall from You, neither in life nor in death. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR:

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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: *The Hansford Family* and their loved ones

Nathan Brown, Lori Held's uncle, who is ill

Sean Fitzgerald, friend of the Haynes, who is recovering from a car accident

Anita Martin, who continues to receive radiation for cancer

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.