



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus  
December 31, 2023, through January 6, 2024*

To know someone's name is no trivial matter. To know his name is to be able to call on him, to pick him out of a crowd, to speak to him individually. To know his name is to know that not only you know him, but *he* knows *you*—and not only knows you, but has given you his name, that you may be his friend, and speak to him. So it is no small thing when God gives us His name in the name of Jesus, before which *every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess*. That we may call upon Jesus by his name is to know that we can beseech Him in every time of need, and know that it is His pleasure to hear us, and give all that He knows we need.

### **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, Dec. 31	Psalm 111:1-6, 10	Is. 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
Monday, Jan. 1	Psalm 113	Is. 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Psalm 62:5-8, 11-12	Is.62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Wednesday, Jan 3	Psalm 108:1-6, 12-13	Is. 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
Thursday, Jan. 4	Psalm 40:6-10	Is. 63:15—65:2	Luke 2:41-52
Friday, Jan. 5	Psalm 37:34-40	Is. 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
Saturday, Jan. 6	Psalm 45:1-7	Is. 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 31, 2023

**Theme:** God gives us His name, that we may call upon it and know that He hears us, and that He gives us all that we need.

**Hymn:** 898, “The Ancient Law Departs”

### Summary of Readings:

**Numbers 6:22-27:** The Lord gives the ‘Aaronic blessing’, by which His name shall be put upon His people.

**Galatians 3:23-29:** The law was given to prepare us for the coming of Christ, by whom we are justified through faith.

**Luke 2:21:** Our Lord is circumcised, and He is given the name Jesus.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Luke 2:21:** “And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 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.)*

*Where is this written?* The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 8 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup>Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, <sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 8<sup>1</sup>:**

Lord Jesus, You were delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Bless and defend Your Holy Church. Endue Your Word with power, strengthen our faith, and after the sufferings of this life grant us to celebrate a happy Easter, rising again to live and reign with You in all eternity. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS:**

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Kettler Family* and their loved ones

*Dennis Christensen*, friend of the Pedersens, who has kidney cancer

*Christa Kettler & Baby*, as she nurtures and bears this new life

*Mark Roberson*, the Weidners' son, whose family dog passed away

## **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.