



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord
January 7 through January 13, 2024*

What need does Our Lord have of a baptism? We know that baptism is for the forgiveness of sin, but Our Lord has no sin. So why is He baptized? He is not baptized to wash away *His* sin, but rather, He is baptized to take upon *yours*—to assume all your sinfulness into Himself, that He might take it to the cross, there to destroy it, that you may have life.

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

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|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Sunday, Jan. 7 | Psalm 46:4-6, 8-11 | Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28 | Rom 1:1-17 |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | Psalm 19:1-6, 9-11, 14 | Ezek. 2:1—3:11 | Rom. 1:18-32 |
| Tuesday, Jan. 9 | Psalm 62:5-12 | Ezek. 3:12-27 | Rom. 2:1-16 |
| Wednesday, Jan 10 | Psalm 85:1-13 | Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32 | Rom. 2:17-29 |
| Thursday, Jan. 11 | Psalm 7:1-5, 8-11 | Ezek. 33:1-20 | Rom. 3:1-18 |
| Friday, Jan. 12 | Psalm 63:3-11 | Ezek. 34:1-24 | Rom. 3:19-31 |
| Saturday, Jan. 13 | Psalm 32:1-7 | Ezek. 36:13-28 | Rom. 4:1-25 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 7, 2024

Theme: Christ the Sinless is baptized to take into Himself the sins of all mankind.

Hymn: 433, “Glory Be to Jesus”

Summary of Readings:

Genesis 1:1–5: God, in creating all things, creates light to illumine the darkness. This is a type of all the work of His revelations to come.

Romans. 6:1–11: We are baptized that we might die with Christ, and so live in Christ.

Mark 1:4–11: Our Lord is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan, receiving His divine mission from His Father, to take our sin to His death upon the cross.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 103:1-3: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR III

(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 the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 29 (ESV)

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

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “Glory!” ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 29¹:

Thanks and praise be unto You, our God and Lord, for sending us the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in which You teach us the way of salvation and comfort us with the hope of everlasting life. Make Your Word in us a power of salvation, and the anchor of our souls in life and death. Cause also the voice of Your Word to be sounded abroad, that the nations that do not know You may come to Your light. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD:

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; 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: *Joshua & Rachel Landrum* and their loved ones

The Family of Jeanette Martin, friend of the Haynes, who has entered eternal rest

Alicia Niemann, relative of the Rudsenskes, who has a burst appendix

Rev. Rick Sawyer, pastor of Good Shepherd, who is recovering from a heart attack

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.