



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 14 through January 20, 2024*

Our Lord approaches Nathanael, and calls him out by identifying him as ‘*an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit,*’ a title only ever used to describe his ancestor Jacob. Nathanael is confused as to how Jesus knows who he is. What follows is the strangest of exchanges, talking about fig trees and sitting around and concluding with Nathanael’s bizarre proclamation that Jesus is the Son of God, and the King of Israel. It seems that there are no logical connections between any part of this dialogue, and yet it not so unreasonable at all, that is, if one looks to the Scriptures of the Old Testament for the answer.

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, Jan. 14	Psalm 104:27-30	Ezek. 36:33—37:14	Rom 5:1-21
Monday, Jan. 15	Psalm 29:1-4a, 8-11	Ezek. 37:15-28	Rom. 6:1-23
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Psalm 36:1-6, 10	Ezek. 38:1-23	Rom. 7:1-20
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Psalm 76:1-12	Ezek. 39:1-10, 17-29	Rom. 7:21—8:17
Thursday, Jan. 18	Psalm 44:1-3, 9-10, 20-23, 26	Ezek. 40:1-4; 43:1-12	Rom. 8:18-39
Friday, Jan. 19	Psalm 15	Ezek. 44:1-16, 23-29	Rom. 9:1-18
Saturday, Jan. 20	Psalm 117	Ezek. 47:1-14, 21-23	Rom. 9:19-33

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 14, 2024

Theme: The Lord calls out to Nathanael, who then realizes that he is being spoken to by the Son of God.

Hymn: 402, “The Only Son from Heaven”

Summary of Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20): The Word of the Lord was rare, and the light was growing dim in Israel. But rather than abandon His people to sin and death, God chose Samuel, calling him by name to shine the light of His Word into the darkness, that the people might walk in the light of His forgiveness.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20: We, too, have been called by name at our Baptism and given new life as members of the body of Christ to shine His light for the life of the world. We therefore not only glorify God with our words, but also with our bodies as we lead sexually pure and decent lives.

John 1:43-51: Jesus called Philip and Nathanael by grace, choosing them to bring light and life into a world of darkness, and revealing to them that they would see heaven opened by Him.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 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.)

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 139:1-10 (ESV)

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

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 139:1-10¹:

To You, O God, belong praise and glory for Your wonderful providence, that You are present with all Your creatures, and preserve them in their being. Teach us to remember at all times and all places that Your eyes are upon us, and that all our deeds are recorded in Your book. Blot out the sins that are past with the blood of Christ, and cause us to walk in Your fear, and to avoid sin. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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: *Keith & Anita Martin* and their loved ones

Laura Booth, friend of the Pedersens, who is recovering

The Family of Tina Burt, Bob Pedersen's cousin, who has entered eternal rest

The Family of W.D. Page, Laura Rawson's father, who has entered eternal rest

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.