



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 21 through January 27, 2024*

Christ calls four of His disciples, and promises to make them *fishers of men*. Though it seems odd, they do not question the call, but get up and follow the Lord. And yet, how could they not? They are leaving the evil of this world, that they may follow the humble glory of Christ. And indeed, they became *fishers of men*, for by their word were all of us saved.

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. 21	Psalm 20	Joel 1:1-20	Rom 10:1-21
Monday, Jan. 22	Psalm 69:19-23, 32-33	Joel 2:1-17	Rom. 11:1-24
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Psalm 139:1-6, 12-14	Joel 2:18-32	Rom. 11:25—12:13
Wednesday, Jan. 24	Psalm 131	Joel 3:1-21	Rom. 12:14—13:14
Thursday, Jan. 25	Psalm 6:4-10	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Friday, Jan. 26	Psalm 18:46-50	Zech. 2:1—3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Saturday, Jan. 27	Psalm 1	Zech. 4:1—5:11	Rom. 15:14-33

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 21, 2024

Theme: The disciples left the madness of this world that they might follow the Lord, and draw the world unto Him as *fishers of men*.

Hymn: 573, “Lord ’Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”

Summary of Readings:

Jonah 3:1–5, 10: God commands Jonah to prophesy to Nineveh, that they might repent; and he does so, and Nineveh repents, and is spared from destruction.

1 Corinthians 7:29–31: St. Paul encourages us to no longer rely on the comforts of this world, which is passing away, but even as we go about our daily life, to live as if we have nothing to hold fast to but God our Father.

Mark 1:14–20: Christ calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to be His disciples, that they might preach the Gospel of Jesus to the world.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Romans 7:18: “I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to the will is present in me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR V

(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.)

Who receives this Sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 62 (ESV)

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

¹For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ²He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. ³How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? ⁴They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah ⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. ⁸Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. ⁹Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. ¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. ¹¹Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, ¹²and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 62¹:

Lord, our God, our sure refuge in need, grant us to love one another, and to honor and obey those You have placed over us. But teach us by Your Spirit to trust alone in You, and not to make flesh our arms, that we may look to You alone for our salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: *Michael Martin* and his loved ones

Vance Klager, friend of the Haynes, who is experiencing health problems

Lesley Tatum, Nancy's sister-in-law, who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Cynthia Widlitze, Sabrina Goodlett's sister, who is recovering from surgery

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.