



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The First Sunday in Lent
February 18 through February 24, 2024*

A son proves himself to be the true son of his father through his obedience to him. Isaac was no unknowing victim. He knew what was his fate, and yet obeyed. So it is also with our Lord Christ who willingly submitted Himself to the will of His Father. Now as we enter the season of Lent, we take up our cross, and follow Christ in His filial obedience to God the Father, facing temptations, even as Jesus did in His earthly ministry, yet ever strengthened by His faith and the power of His Spirit.

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, Feb. 18	Psalm 105:1, 23, 37-43	Job 13:13-28	John 6:22-40
Monday, Feb. 19	Psalm 53	Job 14:1-22	John 6:41-59
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Psalm 16:1, 4-6, 9-11	Job 15:1-23, 30-35	John 6:60-71
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Psalm 84:1-4, 8-12	Job 16:1-22	John 7:1-13
Thursday, Feb. 22	Psalm 25:15-22	Job 17:1-16	John 7:14-31
Friday, Feb. 23	Psalm 42:1-6, 9-11	Job 18:1-21	John 7:32-53
Saturday, Feb. 24	Psalm 30:1-5, 8-12	Job 19:1-12, 21-27	John 8:1-20

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Theme: The [S]on makes [H]imself a sacrifice in loving obedience to the [F]ather.

Hymn: 438, “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

Summary of Readings:

Genesis 22:1-18: God tests Abraham in commanding him to sacrifice his son Isaac upon the mountain which He will reveal to him.

James 1:12-18: St. Paul encourages the brethren as we face temptations of every kind.

Mark 1:9-15: Christ is baptized, then begins His temptation which does not end until His crucifixion. During this testing, He preaches the fulfillment of all things in the coming of the Kingdom of God.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 14:6: “I Am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH COMMANDMENTS

(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 Seventh Commandment? **You shall not steal.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

*What is the Eighth Commandment? **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 25:1-10 (ESV)

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

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! ⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 25¹:

O Lord, our most merciful Father in heaven, be gracious to us and forgive us our sins. Rule in our hearts by Your Spirit, that we may hate and forsake all manner of evil. Restrain our enemies who would deprive us of our salvation, and be to us, and Your whole Church on earth, a very present help in time of need. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT:

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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: *David & Michelle Miller* and their loved ones

Anita Martin, who is recovering from radiation treatment

Rev. Rod Loose, former pastor of Christ Lutheran, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer

James Rudenske, the Rudsenkes' grandson, who was baptized last week

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.