



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 4 through February 10, 2024*

Though we read about demons in the Bible, we do not like to think that demons really have much of a place in our modern world. Yet this is simple ignorance, for we do not understand that we are constantly under the assault of demons, for we are constantly under the assault of the lies of the devil. Christ, Who is the Word of God Incarnate, has come not only to die for our sins, and be raised for our justification, but to destroy the false words of Satan with the true Word of God.

### **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. 4	Psalm 127	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
Monday, Feb. 5	Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24	Job 2:1—3:10	John 1:19-34
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Psalm 77:1-3, 7-12, 15	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Psalm 4	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
Thursday, Feb. 8	Psalm 69:1-4, 8-9, 24, 29-30	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
Friday, Feb. 9	Psalm 23:1-5	Job 6:1-13	John 3:1-21
Saturday, Feb. 10	Psalm 38:1-3, 6, 9- 11, 21-22	Job 6:14-30	John 3:22—4:6

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 4, 2024

**Theme:** Christ has come to cast out the lies of Satan by the truth of His Word.

**Hymn:** 655, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

### Summary of Readings:

**Isaiah 40:21–31:** God, who is above all, the Creator of all, and the power of all, is the salvation of all; and in Him are we to put our trust.

**1 Corinthians 9:16–27:** St. Paul encourages the Church to fortify itself against temptation, as an athlete strengthens himself before a contest, and fights fiercely during his competition. So too are we Christians, who fight against great satanic powers, to continue our fight without ceasing, that we may win the crown of glory.

**Mark 1:29–39:** Christ, having healed Simon’s mother, journeys to other towns and villages, that He might also heal the sick and cast out demons there.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**John 6:63:** “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE THIRD AND FOURTH 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 Third Commandment? **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.***

*What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.*

*What is the Fourth Commandment? **Honor your father and your mother.***

*What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.*

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 147:1-11 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. <sup>2</sup>The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. <sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. <sup>4</sup>He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. <sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. <sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! <sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. <sup>9</sup>He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. <sup>10</sup>His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, <sup>11</sup>but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

## **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 147<sup>1</sup>:**

You, O Lord, our merciful and gracious Father, who has given unto us the knowledge of Your free grace in Jesus Christ, grant us grateful hearts which daily offer to You the true sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, and graciously accept our sacrifices, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:**

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: *Christopher Martin* and his loved ones

*Dennis Christensen*, Bob Pedersen's cousin, who is recovering from surgery

*Rachel Epperson*, the Fields' friend, whose cancer has metastasized

*Barbara Glenn*, who is recovering from pneumonia and an ear infection

## **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.