



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10 through March 16, 2024*

It is God's will not to destroy anything that He has made, but to redeem it by His love and forgiveness. So we see that, in the crucifixion, even those terrible things which effected our Fall in the Garden of Eden are now made beautiful to us in the cross of Christ.

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, March 10	Psalm 60:1, 9-12	Gen. 41:28-57	Mark 11:20-33
Monday, March 11	Psalm 3	Gen. 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday, March 12	Psalm 37:16-20	Gen. 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday, March 13	Psalm 26:1-7	Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
Thursday, March 14	Psalm 82	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
Friday, March 15	Psalm 77:11-15	Gen. 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37
Saturday, March 16	Psalm 44:1-4	Gen. 49:29—50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 10, 2024

Theme: By the forgiveness won in the cross of Christ, all that was most terrible has for the baptized been made most beautiful.

Hymn: 453, “Upon the Cross Extended”

Summary of Readings:

Numbers 21:4–9: The Israelites grumble against the Lord as they wander in the wilderness, and bring a plague of venomous serpents upon themselves. However, Moses, by God’s command, erects a bronze serpent upon a poll, that whoever looks upon it might be healed of the serpents’ poison.

Ephesians 2:1–10: St. Paul teaches us that by the grace and work of God alone, apart from our merit, we have been redeemed from the sin and disobedience within which we once walked.

John 3:14–21: Christ prophesies His own crucifixion, likening His death to the bronze serpent which Moses raised up for the children of Israel in the wilderness. Through His cross, salvation shall come to all who believe, but judgement to all those who desire to disbelieve.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 3:16: “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

THE CATECHISM: THE CLOSE OF THE 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 does God say about all these commandments? He says, “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Exodus 20:5-6).

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 107:1-9 (ESV)

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

¹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ⁹For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

LUTHER’S PREFACE TO PSALM 107¹:

The 107th psalm is a psalm of thanks for the help that God shows to all people in their distress, whether they are Gentile or Jew. This help the heathen have sought by various idols and we Christians and the heathen have sought by various saints up until now (and to a great extent still do): For example, “St. Leonard has released the prisoners, St. Bastian delivers from the pestilence, St. George protects in battle, St. Erasmus makes one rich, and St. Christopher has become the god of sea and water.” We have thus divided all of God’s help among the saints, as the heathen among their idols, and have stolen and robbed from God—to whom alone this psalm is dedicated and to whom alone the psalm calls on us to thank.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: *Elaine Monaghan* and her loved ones

The Families of Derek Abbott and Bryan Zemek, fellow Guard members with Glen Hansford, who entered eternal rest

JoBeth Ray, Gloria Pedersen's cousin, who has entered eternal rest

Jasper Welsch, friend of the Rudsenskies, whose mother 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.