



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7 through April 13, 2024*

Our Lord appears to St. Thomas, that he may bear witness to the resurrection of the Christ, for St. Thomas would not believe by mere word of mouth. Rather, he demands that he, too, along with the rest of the disciples, might truly be a witness to the rising of Jesus in his flesh and blood, that he may not merely preach a story he had heard, but the truth that he had seen and touched.

### **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, April 7	Psalm 119:9-16	Ex. 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
Monday, April 8	Psalm 146	Ex. 22:20—23:13	Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday, April 9	Psalm 26:1-3, 8-12	Ex. 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
Wednesday, April 10	Psalm 99:1-5	Ex. 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
Thursday, April 11	Psalm 119:25-32	Ex. 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
Friday, April 12	Psalm 92:1-9	Ex. 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
Saturday, April 13	Psalm 106:16-23	Ex. 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 7, 2024

**Theme:** Christ appears to St. Thomas, that he might be made a martyr, that is a witness, to the Resurrection.

**Hymn:** 471, “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

### Summary of Readings:

**Acts 4:32–35:** The Apostles hold all things in common, giving to those in the Church each according to their need, all the while preaching the Gospel, and making many converts.

**1 John 1:1—2:2:** St. John describes the true Gospel of forgiveness, apart from which there can be no communion among those who profess themselves to be Christians, but by which all who believe in it are made into one Church and one Communion.

**John 20:19–31:** Christ reveals himself to the disciples, and to Thomas, who confesses Christ as God after touching the wounds of His body.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Romans 1:16:** “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE’S CREED: SECOND ARTICLE**

*(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.)*

*The Second Article: Redemption*

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

### **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 148 (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! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! <sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! <sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. <sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! <sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! <sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together, old men and children! <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

### **LUTHER’S PREFACE TO PSALM 148<sup>1</sup>:**

The 148<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a Psalm of thanks that excites and exhorts all creatures in heaven and earth to praise God – especially His saints who worship Him, that is, have His Word and worship. Rightfully, all of creation should be nothing but a tongue, always praising this great goodness of God. If you want to know how good a thing is, then take whatever you will and say: “If there were no fire...” or “If there were no sun...”; “If there were no woman...”; and so on. Then you will see why one should thank God.

### **COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER:**

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: *Mark Ochs* and his loved ones

*Evelyn Harrison*, friend of the Martins, who is ill

*The Reagan Dodge Family*, a former member of this congregation, whose first child was safely born last week

*Eloise Springer*, who has had trouble breathing

## **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.