



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28 through May 4, 2024*

The Scriptures are filled with ‘dark sayings,’ parables and narratives that in many and various ways confuse the casual reader. Yet, being guided by the vision of Christ, we can come to an understanding of the Word of God. Christ declares that He is the vine, and we are the branches, but what exactly this means is unclear: it is a ‘dark saying’ until it is understood Christologically, with Jesus Himself at the center.

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 28	Psalm 37:1-9	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday, April 29	Psalm 31:1-5	Lev. 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday, April 30	Psalm 127	Lev. 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday, May 1	Psalm 116:12-19	Lev. 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday, May 2	Psalm 52	Lev. 24:1-23	Luke 12:54— 13:17
Friday, May 3	Psalm 119:33-40	Lev. 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday, May 4	Psalm 63:1-5, 8-11	Lev. 26:21-33, 39- 44	Luke 14:1-24

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 28, 2024

Theme: In the same way that Christ is the vine, so too shall we be His branches.

Hymn: 578, “Thy Strong Word”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 8:26–40: St. Philip preaches to and baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch.

1 John 4:1–11: St. John exhorts the Church to test all preachers and all doctrines by whether or not they confess that Christ came in the flesh for the salvation of the world. He then encourages Christians to live in love for one another.

John 15:1–8: Christ explains that He is the true vine, and that the Church are His branches, and that, though the branches be cut off, they yet shall bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 15:7: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE’S CREED: THIRD 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.)

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 150 (ESV)

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

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ²Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 150¹:

Lord, our God, we yield to You most hearty thanks for this Book of Psalms You gave us by Your servant David. Grant that the reading of them may not have been in vain. Let it make a lasting impression on our hearts, that we may be strengthened in faith, and settled in our hope. Keep us steadfast in Jesus Christ until we enter into the inheritance of the saints in light. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: *Will Pickering* and his loved ones

Cheryl Bodkin, who continues to heal from a broken foot

Sherri Smith, who is undergoing testing and treatment for her liver

Bobby Springer, who underwent some medical procedures

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.