



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5 through May 11, 2024*

We often think that love is the opposite of hate, that if one is filled with love, one does not hate anything. Yet this is not true: hate is the twin of love, for one only hates what threatens what he loves. Indeed, one can only hate something if he first loved something. We fallen humans hate all the wrong things because we love all the wrong things. We love worldly success, human pride, and above all, ourselves, and we hate all that opposes these. Yet Christ, who alone is good, and who alone loves man perfectly, knows what is truly hateful, and the only thing that is truly hateful is sin, and its father Satan, and its end, which is death. Christ has come to take vengeance against these things on our behalf, for like a fallen comrade on the field of battle, we cannot avenge ourselves.

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, May 5	Psalm 135:13-21	Num. 3:1-16, 39-48	Luke 14:25— 15:10
Monday, May 6	Psalm 103:6-14	Num. 8:5-26	Luke 15:11-32
Tuesday, May 7	Psalm 66	Num. 9:1-23	Luke 16:1-18
Wednesday, May 8	Psalm 62:5-10	Num. 10:11-36	Luke 16:19-31
Thursday, May 9	Psalm 130	Num. 11:1-23, 31-35	Luke 17:1-19
Friday, May 10	Psalm 77:11-15	Num. 11:24-29; 12:1- 16	Luke 17:20-37
Saturday, May 11	Psalm 119:97-104	Num. 13:1-3, 17-33	Luke 18:1-17

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MAY 5, 2024

Theme: Christ has come to reveal the wrath of God against sin, death, and the devil.

Hymn: 659, “Lord of Our Life”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 10:34–48: St. Peter preaches the Gospel to the gentiles, and many are there baptized as the Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:1–8: St. John admonishes the Church to love one another, explaining that if anyone love the Father, then he must love all the children of the Father, their fellow brothers and sisters, born of God by grace.

John 15:9–17: Jesus gives to His disciples a new commandment, that they love one another, and abide in the love of Christ, laying down their lives for one another as friends.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 John 4:9: “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: INTRODUCTION

(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.)

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 98 (ESV)

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

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ²The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 98¹:

Honor, praise, and thanksgiving to You, O Christ, our God and Savior, for all Your wonderful works and the numberless blessings with which You enrich us. Fill us with Your Spirit and create in us new hearts, that we may rejoice over Your works and gifts all our days, and at our latter end receive us into that kingdom of light in which we shall follow You wherever You go. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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: *The Ramsey Family* and their loved ones

Leigh Connery, friend of the Martins, who is recovering from knee surgery

Sabrina Goodlett, who is having eye surgery

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

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.