



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 22 through September 28, 2024*

The disciples are taught by their Lord in a most plain and open way. They are told that Christ must be delivered over to be killed by men, but that on the third day He will rise again. Somehow, they do not understand such a simple saying, even though they pride themselves on their ability to learn from the Lord's parables, which He Himself says He preaches to confuse those who would not believe. Yet, in their confusion, they fall back on dwelling upon the most human of all things: pride. They argue with one another who will be the greatest in the kingdom, even though they prove themselves to be the greatest fools. Yet, it is with such fools that God is well pleased, for when we have nothing, the Lord works all things through such empty vessels.

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, Sept. 22	Psalm 133	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Tim. 5:1-16
Monday, Sept. 23	Psalm 51:5-13	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
Tuesday, Sept. 24	Psalm 123	Neh. 9:22-38	1 Tim 6:3-21
Wednesday, Sept. 25	Psalm 51:5-13	Mal. 1:1-14	Matt. 3:1-17
Thursday, Sept. 26	Psalm 16	Mal. 2:1-3:5	Matt. 4:1-11
Friday, Sept. 27	Psalm 91:9-16	Mal. 3:6-4:6	Matt. 4:12-25
Saturday, Sept. 28	Psalm 145:17-21	Deut. 1:1-18	Matt. 5:1-20

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Theme: It is in our emptiness that the fullness of the Gospel is revealed to the nations.

Hymn: 716, “I Walk in Danger All the Way”

Summary of Readings:

Jeremiah 11:18-20: Jeremiah gives us a picture of Christ who goes like a Lamb to the slaughter at the hands of those He had come to save.

James 3:13-4:10: Our sinful, self-serving nature operates from pride and selfish ambition. But the way of discipleship is the way of humility that lives from Christ’s forgiveness and the wisdom He gives by which we remain pure, peaceable, and full of mercy and good fruits.

Mark 9:30-37: As the disciples argue about “who is greatest,” Jesus says, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all,” turning the world’s understanding of greatness upside down and demonstrating for us the true meaning of greatness in His own suffering and death.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Psalm 73:26: “My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

THE CATECHISM: CONFESSION (PART II)

(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 sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these? Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 54 (ESV)

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

¹O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

²O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. Selah

⁴Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

⁶With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 54¹:

Lord, our God, who desires not the death of the wicked, convert those who hate us without a cause, and turn the hearts of those who persecute Your Christians. Protect the poor and the innocent against the oppression of unjust men. Grant us patience under the cross, and preserve us in the true faith to our end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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 Bowman Family* and their loved ones

Blair Alford, in-law of the Rudsenskies, who is undergoing cancer treatment

The Hansford Family, as Glen is deployed

Alex Kates, the Atchleys' grandson, who has been hospitalized

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.