



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22 through December 28, 2024*

The Lord our God has made to us, His people, countless promises, that He would purify us of our sin, redeem us from our captivity, and save us from the devil. In the incarnation of His Son, the fulfillment of all these promises is at hand.

### **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, Dec. 22    | Psalm 115:1-8, 11               | Is. 43:1-24                       | Rev. 9:13—10:11 |
| Monday, Dec. 23    | Psalm 39:4-8                    | Is 43:25—44:20                    | Rev. 11:1-19    |
| Tuesday, Dec. 24   | Psalm 98:1-6, 9                 | Is. 44:21—45:13,<br>20-25         | Rev.12:1-17     |
| Wednesday, Dec. 25 | Psalm 96:1-5, 11-13             | Is. 49:1-18                       | Matt. 1:1-17    |
| Thursday, Dec. 26  | Psalm 34:4-10, 19               | Is. 49:22-26;<br>50:4—51:8, 12-16 | Matt. 1:18-25   |
| Friday, Dec. 27    | Psalm 72:1, 4, 10-15, 18-<br>19 | Is. 51:17—52:12                   | Matt: 2:1-12    |
| Saturday, Dec. 28  | Psalm 9:11-14                   | Is. 52:13—54:10                   | Matt. 2:13-23   |

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – DECEMBER 22, 2024

**Theme:** In Christ, the fulfillment of all the Word of God is begun.

**Hymn:** 357, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

### Summary of Readings:

**Micah 5:2–5:** The Lord promises the coming of the Messiah in the town of Bethlehem.

**Hebrews 10:5–10:** By the offering of Christ’s body will we be redeemed, and our bodies sanctified.

**Luke 1:39–45:** Holy Mary visits St. Elizabeth, who blesses her and rejoices.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Galatians 3:13:** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.’”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS (PART 2)**

*(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?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments.

Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

### **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 80 (ESV)**

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

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

<sup>2</sup>Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

### **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 80<sup>1</sup>:**

Blessed be Your holy name, O Lord God of heaven, because You have planted in our land that noble vine, the Christian Church. Cause it to grow and to spread forth its branches, that it may overshadow the land and bring forth prolific fruit for the good of our nation, and the salvation of many, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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: *Merina Hansen* and her loved ones

*The Ferderer Family*, the Holowaches' daughter Marie and her family, upon the safe and healthy birth of Trinity Linn

*Betty Hansford*, Glen's stepmother, who has been diagnosed with cancer

*The Family of Kenny Milam*, friend of the Pedersens, who 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.