



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Epiphany  
January 5 through January 11, 2025*

To be a gentile is to be one wandering in the darkness, having neither Law nor prophesy to guide your way, nor a temple to the true God toward which to direct your devotion. For countless ages, the gentile nations languished in darkness, but in the coming of the three magi to the Christ-child, the true and greatest revelation of God is given to those who were once lost. Thus, on this Feast of Epiphany, we celebrate the Messiah of the Jews being fully recognized as the Redeemer of all mankind.

### **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, Jan. 5	Psalm 37:34-40	Is. 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
Monday, Jan. 6	Psalm 45:1-7	Is. 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Psalm 46:4-6, 8-11	Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28	Rom 1:1-17
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Psalm 19:1-6, 9-11, 14	Ezek. 2:1—3:11	Rom. 1:18-32
Thursday, Jan. 9	Psalm 62:5-12	Ezek. 3:12-27	Rom. 2:1-16
Friday, Jan 10	Psalm 85:1-13	Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32	Rom. 2:17-29
Saturday, Jan. 11	Psalm 7:1-5, 8-11	Ezek. 33:1-20	Rom. 3:1-18

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 5, 2025

**Theme:** The Savior of the world is revealed to the gentiles who were once in darkness.

**Hymn:** 400, “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

### Summary of Readings:

**Isaiah 60:1-6:** The prophet speaks of the coming of the Lord who will be a great light to all nations.

**Ephesians 3:1–12:** St. Paul introduces himself as the Apostle to the gentiles, given by God to give to those not of the line of Abraham the wisdom and salvation of God.

**Matthew 2:1–12:** The three magi visit Our Lord and the Holy Mother.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**Psalm 139:13-14:** “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE'S CREED: FIRST ARTICLE (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 (continued)?*

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

### **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 72:1-15 (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 the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! <sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! <sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! <sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! <sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! <sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! <sup>8</sup>May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! <sup>9</sup>May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! <sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! <sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! <sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. <sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight. <sup>15</sup>Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

### **LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 72<sup>1</sup>:**

To You, our heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts with joyous thanks, because You have granted us the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom we have everlasting life. Preserve in us this saving knowledge, that we may hear His voice with joy, and may go with Him into His eternal kingdom. Amen.

### **COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD:**

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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: *Chuck & Margaret Haynes* and their loved ones

*Laura Rawson*, whose house was severely damaged by a tornado last week

*Lincoln Rimoldi*, Nancy Tatum's grandson, who is being baptized today

*Harry Smith*, young son of Daryl and Sherri Smith's neighbors, who suffered major head trauma

## **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.