



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26 through February 1, 2025*

Christ our Lord reveals Himself to the people of Nazareth to be the promised Messiah, yet He is in no way like how they expected the Messiah to be. They expect Him to perform miracles on behalf of Israel, and to smite the heathen nations. Yet Christ says he comes to do the opposite, to perform no wonders before His own kinsmen, and to redeem the unbelieving world.

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. 25	Psalm 6:4-10	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Monday, Jan. 26	Psalm 18:46-50	Zech. 2:1—3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Tuesday, Jan. 27	Psalm 1	Zech. 4:1—5:11	Rom. 15:14-33
Wednesday, Jan. 28	Psalm 12	Zech. 6:1—7:14	Rom 16:17-27
Thursday, Jan. 29	Psalm 107:1-9	Zech. 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Friday, Jan. 30	Psalm 33:18-22	Zech. 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Saturday, Jan. 31	Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14	Zech. 10:1—11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 26, 2025

Theme: Christ comes as the Messiah, not just to Israel, but to all the children of Adam.

Hymn: 398, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Summary of Readings:

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10: Ezra, having the book of the Law, reads it to the gathered people of Israel, and entrusts its observance to their hearts and minds.

1 Corinthians 12:12–31: St. Paul instructs the Church to, in all things, bear one another up, help each other, do good for each other, suffer for one another, and live and act as one body of Christ.

Luke 4:16–30: Our Lord returns to Nazareth, proclaiming Himself the Messiah. The Nazarenes, scandalized by what he has said, attempt to murder Him, but He escapes.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Titus 3:5: “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE'S CREED: THIRD ARTICLE (PART 1)

(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.)

The Third Article: Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 19 (ESV)

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

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 19¹:

Lord Jesus, You are the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings. Enlighten our darkened understanding by Your Holy Word. Enkindle our hearts and mold our will to walk in faith, love, and hope unto all pleasing. Let the light of Your Gospel shine on the nations that sit in darkness, and preserve Your Church to the day of Your coming. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: *Linda Kirtley* and her loved ones

Gary Lynch, friend of the Martins, who is in the hospital

Victoria Patrick, Nathan Brownstein's girlfriend, who has begun school for nursing

Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Eloise Springer's sister, who is ill

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.