



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Feast of the Purification of Mary
& Presentation of Our Lord
February 2 through February 8, 2025*

The Virgin Mary goes to the Temple to dedicate her child Jesus to God as the firstborn, and to offer the proper sacrifices for her purification according to the Law of Moses. While she is there, she is approached by St. Simeon, who gives her a most strange blessing, about how her child will cause the rise and fall of many, that her heart shall be pierced, and that the thoughts of all will be revealed. Simeon's words seem difficult to understand until we realize what Holy Mary's role is for the Evangelist Luke: that she is an image and type of the Church, and of every Christian that bears the Lord Christ in their mind and upon their heart by the grace of Holy Baptism.

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, Feb. 2	Psalm 75	Zech. 12:1—13:9	Titus 1:1—2:6
Monday, Feb. 3	Psalm 47	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7—3:15
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Psalm 127	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24	Job 2:1—3:10	John 1:19-34
Thursday, Feb. 6	Psalm 77:1-3, 7-12, 15	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
Friday, Feb. 7	Psalm 4	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
Saturday, Feb. 8	Psalm 69:1-4, 8-9, 24, 29-30	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Theme: Mary is a symbol of the Church, and of every Christian individually.

Hymn: 384, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Summary of Readings:

1 Samuel 1:21–28: Hannah sacrifices on behalf of her son and presents him to Eli, who declares him to be a chosen instrument of God.

Hebrews 2:14–18: Christ took on flesh that He might die in the flesh, and in His death, destroy him who has the power of death, that is, Satan. Yet while in the flesh, He is tempted even as we are, that He may know our suffering.

Luke 2:22–32: The infant Christ is presented at the temple, and the sacrifice of the poor is offered for him. While there, Simeon embraces him, and cries out the *Nunc Dimittis*.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 Corinthians 12:3: “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE'S CREED: THIRD ARTICLE (PART 2)

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 84 (ESV)

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. ³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. ⁴Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! ⁵Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. ⁶As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. ⁷They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. ⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! ¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 84¹:

Praise and thanks to You, Lord, our God, because You have granted us Your Word which shows us the way of salvation. By Your Holy Spirit work effectively in us through this Your Word, that it may prove in us a living and fruitful seed bringing a hundredfold, and that the fruit remain to eternal life. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD: Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, 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: *Steve Jeffcoat* and his loved ones

Reagan Dodge, former member of this congregation, who has passed the bar

Elmer Held, Eric's father, who is recovering in rehab

Mary Hester, friend of the Rudsenskies, who is recovering from surgery

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.