



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday in Lent
March 23 through March 29, 2025*

The Church has long sung that by a tree our damnation was made, and by a tree was our salvation won. This day we read about a tree that does not bear fruit, the tree of our own desiring which we ate of in the Garden, and have sought fruit from ever since. By this tree which makes promises to our flesh we cannot be saved; yet by the fruit of the cross, by the blood of Christ's Passion, our redemption is bought, and our life made whole.

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, March 23	Psalm 129	Gen. 27:30-45; 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13
Monday, March 24	Psalm 38:13-15, 21-22	Gen. 29:1-30	Mark 9:14-32
Tuesday, March 25	Psalm 105:5-11	Gen. 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
Wednesday, March 26	Psalm 31:1-5	Gen. 37:1-36	Mark 10:1-12
Thursday, March 27	Psalm 106:44-48	Gen. 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
Friday, March 28	Psalm 49:1-3, 7-10	Gen. 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52
Saturday, March 29	Psalm 11	Gen. 41:1-27	Mark 11:1-19

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 23, 2025

Theme: By the tree of disobedience, mankind was damned, but by the tree of the cross, we are saved.

Hymn: 572, “In the Shattered Bliss of Eden”

Summary of Readings:

Ezekiel 33:7-20: God sends Ezekiel to turn His people from their wicked idolatry, that they may live in His forgiveness. For God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their sin and live.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13: Even after God rescued His people from death in Egypt and set them on the path to victory and new life in the Promised Land, they turned from Him to go the way of idolatry and immorality. For that reason, they were destroyed. Let this be a lesson for us all, lest we too go the way of unrepentant sin and fall.

Luke 13:1-9: The Pharisees view the world through the eyes of self-righteous judgment, assuming that those who die tragically are being punished for a particular sin. But Jesus makes it clear that we will all die, and that unless we turn (repent) to confess our sin (contrition) and trust in His righteousness (faith) for our salvation, then dead is what we will remain for eternity.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

2 Corinthians 12:9: “He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: THIRD PETITION (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.)

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 85 (ESV)

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah. ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? ⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. ¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 85¹:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: *David & Michelle Miller* and their loved ones
Barbara Glenn, who is having a procedure done this week
Brelon Starnes, Gloria Pedersen's cousin, who is on hospice
Brady and Landry Tynes, the Weidners' granddaughter and her husband, who are expecting

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.