



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6 through April 12, 2025*

Jesus tells a parable of a man who plants a vineyard and leases it to tenants. The tenants want to keep the land as their own and do with it what they want. So when the master sends his servants to gather his produce from the tenants, they kill them all, and finally, they even kill the master's son, thinking that if the master has no heir, he will let the wicked tenants keep the land. Firstly, the man is God, and the land is Israel, and the priests and Pharisees are the tenants, put in charge of caring for and instructing the people; but they do not want to keep to their original mission, but want to have a religion of their own imagination. So God calls them to repentance, first with the prophets, and then with Jesus; but they will not listen, and in fact kill all of God's messengers. So God strips them of the Kingdom and gives it to gentiles. Now we, the gentile Christians, possess God's Kingdom through His grace. May we not forget that we are God's servant, and the Church is Christ's bride, and that we have no right to make it our own, for if we do, we too will be destroyed.

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

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| Sunday, April 6 | Psalm 129 | Ex. 1:1-22 | Mark 14:12-31 |
| Monday, April 7 | Psalm 31:9-14 | Ex. 2:1-22 | Mark 14:32-52 |
| Tuesday, April 8 | Psalm 39:1-7 | Ex. 2:23—3:22 | Mark 14:53-72 |
| Wednesday, April 9 | Psalm 18:6-7, 16-20 | Ex. 4:1-18 | Mark 15:1-15 |
| Thursday, April 10 | Psalm 69:33-36 | Ex. 4:19-31 | Mark 15:16-32 |
| Friday, April 11 | Psalm 22:1-5 | Ex. 5:1—6:1 | Mark 15:33-47 |
| Saturday, April 12 | Psalm 78:52-55 | Ex. 7:1-25 | Mark 16:1-20 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 6, 2025

Theme: Hold fast to the Church and her Gospel, and do not compromise with the culture, lest you be ashamed on the Day of Judgment.

Hymn: 941, “We Praise You and Acknowledge You”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21: The Lord declares the way of redemption which He will make for His people, that they might declare His praise.

Philippians 3:8-14: Paul instructs us that everything is worthless when compared to what is promised in the mystery of faith, which is the righteousness of God. Therefore, we are to hold fast to this faith, and prize nothing more highly, that we might endure to the end and win the prize of salvation, abiding within God’s grace.

Luke 20:9-20: Christ tells a parable about a man who lends out his vineyard to tenants. The tenants wish to keep the land as their own and will not return its produce to the owner, killing his servants, and eventually, his son. So the man destroys those tenants, and finds new tenants for the land. It is best to read this as it relates to us now: the man is God, we are the tenants, and the land vineyard is the Church. If we take the Church as our own and do not steward it as God commands, then we will surely be forsaken, and our man-made churches will fail.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FOURTH 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.)

Give us this day our daily bread.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 126 (ESV)

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

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 126¹:

Merciful Father in heaven, convert the sinners and comfort Your believers with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us willing hearts and understanding minds to sow the seed of Your Word broadcast among men, and if it seems good to hide the fruit of our sowing from our eyes, strengthen our hearts that we faint not, but wait for the harvest in the world to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: *Jenny Merry* and her loved ones

The Family of Laura Angelo, friend of the Pedersens, who has entered eternal rest

Tahlia Ferderer, granddaughter of the Holowaches, who is recovering from pneumonia

Christina Gallarno & Child, as she is pregnant

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.