



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday of Easter
May 4 through May 10, 2025*

With Christ's descent into hell, the world is left without a God. The heavens weep, hell proclaims its victory, the earth quakes. But who could doubt that Christ, who is all and is in all, could be conquered? So it is that hell is broken, heaven rejoices, and the world is filled with His Spirit unto the end of the age.

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, May 3	Psalm 119:49-56	Ex. 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
Monday, May 4	Psalm 80:1-7	Ex. 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
Tuesday, May 5	Psalm 86:11-17	Ex. 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
Wednesday, May 6	Psalm 84:1-4	Ex. 34:29—35:21	Luke 7:36-50
Thursday, May 7	Psalm 119:145-152	Ex. 38:21—39:8, 22-23, 27-31	Luke 8:1-21
Friday, May 8	Psalm 107:23-32	Ex. 39:32—40:16	Luke 8:22-39
Saturday, May 9	Psalm 41:1-3, 11-13	Ex. 40:17-38	Luke 8:40-56

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MAY 4, 2025

Theme: Christ’s ‘defeat’ is the very means of His conquest.

Hymn: 458, “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 9:1–22: St. Paul is converted on the road to Damascus as one persecuting Christians. Yet he is reborn as the Apostle to the gentiles.

Revelation 5:1–14: Heaven weeps that the great scroll containing the redemptive will of the world cannot be opened, for there is none worthy in heaven or upon earth. But Christ, in the image of a lamb, comes forth into the heavens—Him alone worthy—and opens the scroll, to the great praise of His ever-blessed name.

John 21:1–14: Christ again reveals Himself to His disciples after His resurrection, though this time through a meal of fish and bread. The Apostles recognize Him, but, besides St. John, none would say it.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Matthew 7:7-8: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: CONCLUSION

(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.)

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 30 (ESV)

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

¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. ²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. ⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. ⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." ⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed. ⁸To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: ⁹"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?" ¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!" ¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, ¹²that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 30¹:

Thanks to You, our Father in heaven, for the countless blessings You have bestowed on us from our childhood days. Thanks to You because You so often have been our Helper in spiritual and bodily need. As in the past, be with us in the future to give us a joyous heart, to uphold us in trials, to strengthen us in temptations, and to comfort us by Your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; 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: *The Nelson Family* and their loved ones

Betty Hansford, Glen's step-mother, who is undergoing chemo

Patrick Omara, friend of the Rudsenskes, who has been diagnosed with oral cancer

The Family of Rachel Weinrich, friend of the Fields, who has entered eternal rest

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.