



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11 through May 17, 2025*

The Lord is walking about the Temple, the place of God's presence, for the simple reason that He is the Lord, and that is His house. He is there on the Feast of Dedication, a day which celebrates the restoration of the Temple after it was captured by pagans and converted into a pagan mount of worship. So on this day, celebrating when the Temple is restored, Jesus is found in it, because Jesus is God, and God has located Himself there. Today the Temple is gone, but every Christian church has become a temple where Christ dwells personally in His body and blood upon the altar, that we may enjoy His presence among us forever.

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 8	Psalms 45:4-8a	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
Monday, May 9	Psalms 119:129-138	Lev. 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
Tuesday, May 10	Psalms 25:1-10	Lev. 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
Wednesday, May 11	Psalms 19:7-14	Lev. 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
Thursday, May 12	Psalms 17:7-15	Lev. 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
Friday, May 13	Psalms 119:1-8	Lev. 18:1-7, 20— 19:8	Luke 11:1-13
Saturday, May 14	Psalms 36:7-12	Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MAY 11, 2025

Theme: Christ has located Himself among His people in every Christian congregation through the Word and the Sacraments.

Hymn: 709, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 20:17-35: St. Paul stands by the truth of God’s Word and bears faithful witness to Christ, even in the face of persecution, so that others may be saved. He encourages all pastors, and all believers for that matter, to do the same.

Revelation 7:9-17: St. John sees the Church Triumphant, the people of God delivered out of the great tribulation of this dying world. By the blood of the Lamb, i.e. by way of Christ’s atoning Sacrifice, they are redeemed from the curse and from the wrath of God so that the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd for life everlasting.

John 10:22-30: Not everyone who hears God’s Word will believe that Jesus is the Christ who gives His life for the sheep. But those who hear His voice and follow Him will never perish, but have eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 10:27-28: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

THE CATECHISM: BAPTISM (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.)

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 23 (ESV)

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

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 23¹:

Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good Shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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: *Beulah Nunnery* and her loved ones

Graduates, especially James Hansford, who celebrate this milestone and continue to serve God in their vocations

Graham Goldman, friend of the Helds, who is in critical condition

The Family of Mallory Richard, friend of the Goodletts, 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.