



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13 through July 19, 2025*

We sinful men devise many reasons to explain why we should not show mercy to our neighbors. Those reasons are generally rationalizations for sin, division, laziness, and selfishness. Yet, though sinful men reason their way out of having compassion, our Lord, Who is Reason, brings Himself, in compassion, into our broken world, that He might bring us into His Church and make us 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, July 13	Psalm 71:1-8	Judg. 13:1-25	Gal. 2:1-21
Monday, July 14	Psalm 119:1-8	Judg. 14:1-20	Gal. 3:1-22
Tuesday, July 15	Psalm 33:13-22	Judg. 15:1—16:3	Gal. 3:23—4:11
Wednesday, July 16	Psalm 21:1-7	Judg. 16:4-30	Gal. 4:12-31
Thursday, July 17	Psalm 92:8-15	1 Sam. 1:1-20	Gal. 5:1-26
Friday, July 18	Psalm 20	1 Sam. 1:21—2:17	Gal. 6:1-18
Saturday, July 19	Psalm 82	1 Sam. 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JULY 13, 2025

Theme: Christ is the outcast who has compassion upon the fallen man.

Hymn: 845, “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Summary of Readings:

Leviticus 19:9–18: God gives to His people laws concerning how to treat one’s neighbor in love, compassion, and hospitality.

Colossians 1:1–14: St. Paul greets the Church in Colossae, ensuring them that they are no longer in the dominion of darkness, but dwell in the light of the kingdom of the Son.

Luke 10:25–37: Our Lord answers the question ‘Who is my neighbor’ with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, wherein a priest and a Levite do not have compassion upon a robbed and beaten traveler, but a Samaritan does, and sacrifices much of himself in order to ensure that the injured man is made well.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Matthew 18:18: “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

THE CATECHISM: OFFICE OF THE KEYS (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 the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 41 (ESV)

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

¹Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; ²the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. ³The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. ⁴As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" ⁵My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?" ⁶And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. ⁷All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. ⁸They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies." ⁹Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. ¹⁰But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! ¹¹By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. ¹²But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. ¹³Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 41¹:

Lord Jesus, who came to Your own and they received You not, grant us Your Spirit to glorify You in our hearts. Enlighten our souls with this living knowledge that You are the power of God and the wisdom of God, that we may never be offended in You, but may hold Your righteousness in an unwavering faith, and may not be ashamed to confess You before men. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; 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: *Chuck Rubisoff* and his loved ones

Flood Victims in Texas and New Mexico

Betty Hansford, Glen's step-mother, who is receiving cancer treatment

Bob Pedersen, as his eyes continue to heal 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.