



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3 through August 9, 2025*

It is God's desire that we enjoy all that He has created for our benefit. Yet we do not simply enjoy it, we submit ourselves to it. In a thousand ways, we enslave ourselves to that which we were meant to rule over; this is the meaning of idolatry. So our Lord calls us away from the rule of the idols and draws us to Himself, that we might return to what we were meant to be: kings of creation, gods over it, with only the One True God above us.

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, August 3	Psalm 68:4-10	1 Samuel 17:48—18:9	Acts 27:9-26
Monday, August 4	Psalm 56:1-4	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44
Tuesday, August 5	Psalm 21:1-7	1 Sam. 19:1-24	Acts 28:1-15
Wednesday, August 6	Psalm 92:1-9	1 Sam. 20:1-23	Acts 28:16-31
Thursday, August 7	Psalm 144:3-10	1 Sam. 20:24-42	1 Cor. 1:1-25
Friday, August 8	Psalm 62:1-7	1 Sam. 24:1-22	1 Cor. 1:26—2:16
Saturday, August 9	Psalm 94:8-15	1 Sam. 25:1-22	1 Cor. 3:1-23

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – AUGUST 3, 2025

Theme: God meant us to enjoy the world He made for us, yet we instead enslave ourselves to it. From this our Lord redeems us through His sacrifice.

Hymn: 724, “If God Himself Be for Me”

Summary of Readings:

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26: All the labors of life are vanity, for death renders them all void. All earthly things gained in life are lost in death. Therefore, the only thing a wise man can do is strive not after the wind, but enjoy that which one has before him of God.

Colossians 3:1-11: St. Paul teaches us that, being born again of Christ, all earthly distinctions are done away with; for we are not born of men, nor of their tribes or distinctions, but born of God. Therefore, we should live as those born of God and not of the flesh, keeping ourselves clean of all defilement and sin.

Luke 12:13–21: Our Lord condemns covetousness and greed, reminding His people through a parable that, though we may gather much wealth, thinking that we have found security in it, yet we may die at any moment, and our material success will have no power to save us.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

2 Corinthians 2:10: “What I have forgiven... has been for your sake in the presence of Christ.”

THE CATECHISM: OFFICE OF THE KEYS (PART 3)

(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 do you believe according to these words? I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 100 (ESV)

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

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! ²Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 100¹:

Spirit of grace and of prayer that proceeds from the Father and the Son, grant us Your power, and intercede for us with sighings which cannot be uttered, that in spirit and in truth we may give thanks to our Savior Jesus Christ for His love and truth. Anoint us with the oil of gladness to walk before our God in a holy conversation, and to run the way of His Commandments. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; 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: *Daryl & Sherri Smith* and their loved ones

June Clement, Nancy Teal's in-law, who is ill

Gracelyn Foster, friend of the Hansfords, who is hospitalized due to a motorcycle accident

Casey Stone, the Pedersens' niece, who has successfully received a kidney transplant

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.