



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31 through September 6, 2025*

The Lord tells us that we are not to invite our friends and families to banquets, lest we be doing so only to gain favors in their sight. Yet it seems odd for Him to say this: we have banquets and dinners specifically to show *our* favor toward to those closest to us, and we generally do not expect much in return. Yet though it is true that our Lord teaches us something important in this, that we should not value others for what they are able to do for us, He is, more importantly, telling us something about His work for us sinners, who can give nothing in return.

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, Aug. 31	Psalm 68:15-20	1 Kings 16:29—17:24	2 Cor. 9:1-15
Monday, Sept. 1	Psalm 47	1 Kings 18:1-19	Eph. 1:1-23
Tuesday, Sept. 2	Psalm 138	1 Kings 18:20-40	Eph. 2:1-22
Wednesday, Sept. 3	Psalm 119:57-64	1 Kings 19:1-22:53	Eph. 3:1-21
Thursday, Sept. 4	Psalm 90:13-17	2 Kings 2:1-18	Eph. 4:1-24
Friday, Sept. 5	Psalm 56:8-13	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7	Eph. 4:25-5:14
Saturday, Sept. 6	Psalm 127	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37	Eph. 5:15-33

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – AUGUST 31, 2025

Theme: The Lord Jesus comes to serve we who are poor in righteousness, and dead in sin, who have nothing to give in return.

Hymn: 559, “Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion”

Summary of Readings:

Proverbs 25:2–10: Solomon gives diverse wisdom, first noting that God conceals, but also it is the task of men to discover. Yet having discovered, man must know what is best to do with the knowledge he has.

Hebrews 13:1–17: The author of Hebrews admonishes the Church to uphold hospitality, marriage, kindness to the downtrodden, and reverence towards pastors of the Church, that from them one might find spiritual gain.

Luke 14:1–14: Christ teaches about the true meaning of the Sabbath, and commands that none exalt himself, lest he be humiliated; for those who are humble will be exalted.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 6:51: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR 4

(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.)

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 131 (ESV)

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

¹O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

²But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

³O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 131¹:

Lord Jesus, who humbled Yourself to bear our sins in Your own body, and to suffer the shameful death of the cross, grant us Your Spirit of meekness that we may walk in true humility. Take from us all haughtiness and pride, that we seek not great things, and create in us that mind by which we count Your grace sufficient unto us. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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: *Nancy Teal* and her loved ones

John Garner, former colleague of Dave Teal, who has bone cancer

Nicole Tatum, Nancy's daughter-in-law, who is being treated for cancer

Peggy Taylor, Natalie Rudsenske's grandmother, who is in hospice

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.