



## A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday after Christmas  
January 4 through January 10, 2026*

People have been willing to sacrifice everything from money to human lives for any number of petty purposes for the history of all mankind. In the past century, we have seen more 'human sacrifice' for the sake of human ideals than in any age of the past, and all this we think of as just a chapter in history. Yet we balk at the idea of the sacrifice of animals in the Old Testament, and the sacrifice of the Son in the New. But there is one, and only one sacrifice that is needful, that of the Christ Child, who has been born to 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, Jan. 4	Psalm 40:6-10	Is. 63:15—65:2	Luke 2:41-52
Monday, Jan. 5	Psalm 37:34-40	Is. 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
Tuesday, Jan. 6	Psalm 45:1-7	Is. 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
Wednesday, Jan. 7	Psalm 46:4-6, 8-11	Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28	Rom 1:1-17
Thursday, Jan. 8	Psalm 19:1-6, 9-11, 14	Ezek. 2:1—3:11	Rom. 1:18-32
Friday, Jan. 9	Psalm 62:5-12	Ezek. 3:12-27	Rom. 2:1-16
Saturday, Jan. 10	Psalm 85:1-13	Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32	Rom. 2:17-29

## A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 4, 2026

**Theme:** There is but one sacrifice needful to us, for our forgiveness and redemption: that of the Son of the Father.

**Hymn:** 530, “No Temple Now, No Gift of Price”

### Summary of Readings:

**1 Kings 3:4–15:** The Lord comes to King Solomon in a dream, granting him whatsoever wish he desires. King Solomon asks for wisdom and understanding. The Lord is greatly pleased at this request, and grants it to Solomon.

**Ephesians 1:3–14:** St. Paul teaches of our election in Christ, and that how in Christ, we have received redemption through Him, and a great inheritance.

**Luke 2:40–52:** Jesus is lost by His parents in Jerusalem, and when they return to look for Him, they find Him in the Temple, listening to the teachings of the rabbis. When asked why He was there by His parents, He responds that He must be in His Father’s house.

### MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

**1 Corinthians 12:3:** “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”

## **THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLE’S CREED: THIRD ARTICLE (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.)*

*The Third Article: Sanctification*

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 119:97-104 (ESV)**

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

<sup>97</sup>Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. <sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. <sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. <sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. <sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. <sup>102</sup>I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. <sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

## **LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 119:97-104<sup>1</sup>:**

Thanks be to You, God of all wisdom, that You have given us Your Word, in which You teach us the true wisdom. Guard us from the seductions of science falsely so called, and keep us in the faith of Your Word, which enlightens the soul unto eternal life. So draw us to Your Son, that we hear His voice and follow Him. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS:**

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 Fields Family* and their loved ones

*Francis Dillon*, who is recovering from surgery

*Jim Hansford*, Glen's father, who continues to battle serious health issues

*Bobbie Mutter*, who is ill

## **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.