



Living from the Liturgy

A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25 through January 31, 2026*

Contrary to our cinematic depictions and modern conception, a king is first and foremost a man of war, a conqueror. Those he has vanquished have only two options: loyalty to their new king, or death. We who live in the kingdom of this world have chosen loyalty, and even love, for the Prince of Darkness who conquered our people so long ago. Indeed, we love his reign, for he offers us all the desires of our hearts in exchange for our loyalty. But there comes a new King—His head is laden with thorns and His Word piercing through heart and sinew. And He comes with the same demand as the kings of old: death, or loyalty. But strangely, this king wins our loyalty not through temptation and indulgence, but through suffering and servitude. He offers us not the desires of our darkened hearts, but His own Flesh and Blood. For this is the Gospel of His kingdom: that we love Him, because He first loved 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. 25	Psalm 6:4-10	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Monday, Jan. 26	Psalm 18:46-50	Zech. 2:1—3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Tuesday, Jan. 27	Psalm 1	Zech. 4:1—5:11	Rom. 15:14-33
Wednesday, Jan. 28	Psalm 12	Zech. 6:1—7:14	Rom 16:17-27
Thursday, Jan. 29	Psalm 107:1-9	Zech. 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Friday, Jan. 30	Psalm 33:18-22	Zech. 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Saturday, Jan. 31	Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14	Zech. 10:1—11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JANUARY 26, 2026

Theme: The conquering King comes to proclaim the Gospel of His kingdom.

Hymn: 539, “Christ Is the World’s Redeemer”

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 9:1-4: Part of Isaiah’s great “Immanuel” prophecy, the Savior is identified as a Great Light that shines into this world’s darkness to take away all gloom and anguish.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18: St. Paul encourages the baptized to put away quarreling and division and to be united in the cross of Christ.

Matthew 4:12-25: Jesus inaugurates His rule and reign by preaching repentance, calling men into the holy ministry, and healing every disease and affliction among the people, reversing the curse and providing a glimpse of the resurrection to come for all who would receive His gifts for their life and salvation.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

1 John 4:9: “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FIRST PETITION (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.)

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 27:1-9 (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 light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." ⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 27¹:

Lord, our God, You are merciful and kind, true and faithful. Preserve us in Your Word, and guard Your Church against all oppressors and faithless leaders, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: *Barbara Glenn* and her loved ones

Jarrod Bredan McKnight, child of the Martins' friends, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Kristen Shavlik, the Fields' friend, who is recovering from a broken arm

Those affected by the current cold weather

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.