



A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1 through February 7, 2026*

The Lord asks His people ‘*What have I done to you?*’ And this is a question that sinful men are more than glad to answer, as we have no end of complaints to render against God, against the Bible, against the Church, against His priests and pastors and servants. God in unjust and cruel, the Bible is archaic and outdated, the Church is corrupt and controlling, and His pastors are inept. Yet God does not defend Himself by giving answer to each of our criticisms in turn. He gives His only answer in the fact of the cross, by which He forgives us of all our sins.

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, Feb. 1	Psalm 28	Zech. 11:4-17	2 Tim. 4:1-18
Monday, Feb. 2	Psalm 75	Zech. 12:1—13:9	Titus 1:1—2:6
Tuesday, Feb. 3	Psalm 47	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7—3:15
Wednesday, Feb. 4	Psalm 127	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
Thursday, Feb. 5	Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24	Job 2:1—3:10	John 1:19-34
Friday, Feb. 6	Psalm 77:1-3, 7-12, 15	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
Saturday, Feb. 7	Psalm 4	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Theme: God atones for all our wrath against Him and against His anointed through the atonement won for us on the cross.

Hymn: 438, “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

Summary of Readings:

Micah 6:1-8: The Lord asks the people of Israel what He has done to have deserved their idolatry and abandonment.

1 Corinthians 1:18–31: St. Paul preaches the cross, and how it is the end of all supposed human wisdom and morality.

Matthew 5:1-12: Christ describes the ‘blessed man,’ and in so doing, describes Himself and the life that is destined for His disciples, one typified by making peace, embracing suffering, and inheriting thus the riches of God’s glory.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Ephesians 4:1: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER: FIRST PETITION (PART 2)

(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.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 15 (ESV)

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

¹O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? ²He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; ³who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; ⁴in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 15¹:

O Lord, our gracious and merciful Father, grant us steadfastly to believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior; to fearlessly confess Him before men to the reproving of the unbelieving and the wicked. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to walk honestly as in the light of day, both privately and in public. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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: *Allen & Sabrina Goodlett* and their loved ones

Elmer Held, Eric's father, who continues to recover in rehab

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

Alex Kates, the Atchleys' grandson, who is suffering from a severe skin condition

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.