



Living from the Liturgy

A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26 – May 2, 2026

We are bombarded with voices constantly, the voices of society, of politicians, of activists, of newsmen, all demanding that we make a sacrifice, that a better world might come. These are the idols of the world, that make great promises, if only we serve them. Yet even if we cut ourselves off from them, we are only more assaulted by the voice of Satan who tempts us to every sin. Yet Christ our Good Shepherd leads us away from these wicked mouths by His Blessed Word which calls to us, and He arms us with the same, that we might do battle with the Father of Lies.

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

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|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Sunday, April 26 | Psalm 45:4-8a | Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36 | Luke 9:1-17 |
| Monday, April 27 | Psalm 119:129-138 | Lev. 9:1-24 | Luke 9:18-36 |
| Tuesday, April 28 | Psalm 25:1-10 | Lev. 10:1-20 | Luke 9:37-62 |
| Wednesday, April 29 | Psalm 19:7-14 | Lev. 16:1-24 | Luke 10:1-22 |
| Thursday, April 30 | Psalm 17:7-15 | Lev. 17:1-16 | Luke 10:23-42 |
| Friday, May 1 | Psalm 119:1-8 | Lev. 18:1-7, 20—19:8 | Luke 11:1-13 |
| Saturday, May 2 | Psalm 36:7-12 | Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37 | Luke 11:14-36 |

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – APRIL 26, 2026

Theme: The voice of the Lord leads us away from all the idolatrous voices of this world, and the demonic voices within our heart.

Hymn: 666, “O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”

Summary of Readings:

Acts 2:42–47: Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to a new life of participation in preaching, the Lord’s Supper, and the liturgy.

1 Peter 2:19–25: St. Peter encourages the Church to endure suffering as the Lord did, not returning evil for evil, but returning pain with blessing, for we have been redeemed by Him who suffered for us.

John 10:1–10: Jesus tells the parable of the sheepfold, wherein His disciples are equated to sheep who do not listen to the voice of robbers, but only to the voice of their shepherd.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Titus 3:4-7: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

THE CATECHISM — THE LORD’S PRAYER: BAPTISM (PT. 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.)

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 23 (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 shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

LUTHER’S PREFACE TO PSALM 23¹:

Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good Shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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.

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: *Christopher Martin* and their loved ones

James Hansford, who has graduated from BASIC training and is now undergoing technical training

Roger Lindsey, former member of Christ Lutheran, who is in the hospital

Charlotte Smith, newborn granddaughter of the Smiths, who has been in the NICU

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING 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.