



Living from the Liturgy

A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19 – July 25, 2026

We often view Christianity as being about our relationship with God. It is a binary: God wants to save us, and we want to be saved by God. When we feel like we are not pleasing God, we are overcome with guilt and shame, and worry about whether we can be redeemed. Yet Christ tells us in this day's parable that God is not merely saving us, but saving us from 'an enemy' that is the devil. He has come not to make us pleasing to Him so that we can be saved, but rather to deliver us from our enslaver, and deliver us from all our enemies, that we might be His own.

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

Sunday, July 19	Psalm 82	1 Sam. 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41
Monday, July 20	Psalm 119:57-64	1 Sam. 3:1-21	Acts 16:1-22
Tuesday, July 21	Psalm 106:1-5	1 Sam. 4:1-22	Acts 16:23-40
Wednesday, July 22	Psalm 137:1-7	1 Sam. 5:1—6:3, 10-16	Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
Thursday, July 23	Psalm 119:113-120	1 Sam. 6:19— 7:17	Acts 19:1-22
Friday, July 24	Psalm 24:7-10	1 Sam. 8:1-22	Acts 21:15-36
Saturday, July 25	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Sam. 9:1-27	Acts 21:37— 22:16

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – JUNE 19, 2026

Theme: Christ has come to deliver us from the rule of the devil, that we might be His own.

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

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 44:6–8: The Lord declares His ultimate victory over all the idols and false gods of the world, and of His deliverance of His people.

Romans 8:18–27: St. Paul teaches to us the hope we in the final resurrection of our bodies and redemption our souls, for which we eagerly endure every trial.

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43: Christ teaches the parable of the wheat and the tares.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Matthew 26:26, 28: “This is My body... This is My blood.”

THE CATECHISM — THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR (PT. 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.)

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 119:57-64 (ESV)

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

⁵⁷The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. ⁵⁸I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. ⁵⁹When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; ⁶⁰I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. ⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. ⁶²At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. ⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. ⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 119:57-64¹:

O Lord, You who are the same yesterday, today, and forever, remember us pilgrims in this nether world; for frail is our frame, and few are our days. Let the Word of Your salvation be a lamp to our feet and a light for our path, that our soul must not walk in darkness, but may find the way to that city whose light is the Lamb. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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: *Bob & Gloria Pedersen* and their loved ones

Anna Grace Adams, the Pedersens' granddaughter, who is moving to Texas for the military

Donald Ochs, Mark's father, who is recovering from a procedure

The Family of Ted Triplett, friend of Bob Pedersen, who has entered eternal rest

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.