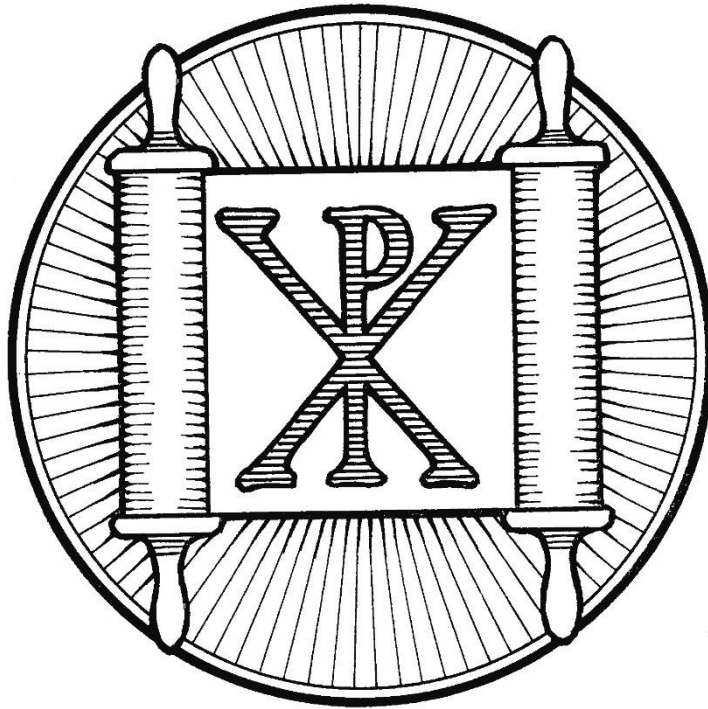


The Sacred Life: Meditation on Scripture, Prayer, and Struggle

Taking what you learned in Sunday's liturgy with you throughout the week.



Daily Meditation and Prayer Instructions:

Read the Scriptures appointed for that day, review the readings from Sunday, and become familiar with Luther's Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, Collects, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

Sunday	Psalm 119:9-16	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
Monday	Psalm 146	Exodus 22:20-23:13	Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday	Psalm 26:1-3, 8-12	Exodus 23:14-33	Luke 4:32-44
Wednesday	Psalm 99:1-5	Exodus 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
Thursday	Psalm 119:25- 32	Exodus 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
Friday	Psalm 92:1-9	Exodus 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
Saturday	Psalm 106:16- 23	Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38

Looking Back at the Liturgy – The Second Sunday of Easter

Theme: The wounds of the resurrected Christ do not disappear, because by these wounds we are healed, and the apostolic ministry is given. Thomas, who we often label 'doubting Thomas', gets a bad reputation. Rather, He wants to experience the same promised resurrected wounds of Christ that the other disciples got! We, as the church today, 'see' the wounds of Christ through the testimony of the Gospel, and the Spirit which testifies to the resurrected wounds of Christ!

Hymn: LSB 438 – O Sons and Daughters of the King

Summary of Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14– The breath of God puts bone together with bone. He puts joints back together and puts on a new flesh. This prophecy of Ezekiel not only talks about the resurrection of the Israelite people, but of all under God's care!

1 John 5:4-10 – Water, blood, and Spirit testify to the work of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the crucifixion scene: water and blood pouring out from the side of Christ. And the Spirit of God is given up by Jesus at His last breath.

John 20:19-31 – The identity of the resurrected Christ is that of the crucified Christ. When Christ appears to His disciples, He accompanies His life-giving word "Peace be with you" with showing them His wounds. Then, the Spirit is given that gives the disciples authority for apostolic ministry. Thomas wants to experience the wounds of Christ as the others!

The Catechism: The Creed – 3rd Article

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

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Verse to Memorize – John 15:26 – When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 33 (ESV)

¹ Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

² Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

⁴ For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

¹⁰ The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

¹¹ The counsel of the Lord stands forever,

the plans of his heart to all generations.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

¹³ The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;

¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,

¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶ The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷ The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹ For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

²² Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Luther's Prayer on Psalm 33:

We thank You, Lord, for all the good that You have shown us from the days of our childhood. Continue to multiply Your mercies upon us, keep us in Your fear and favor, cause us to walk in Your praise, protect us from all enemies, both visible and invisible, and grant us, like Simeon of old, to depart in peace, through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Collect for The Second Sunday of Easter:

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

Themes for Daily Prayer – (LSB 294)

Sunday: *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.*

Monday: *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: *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*

Wednesday: *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: *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, 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: *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: *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.*

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

OR

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.