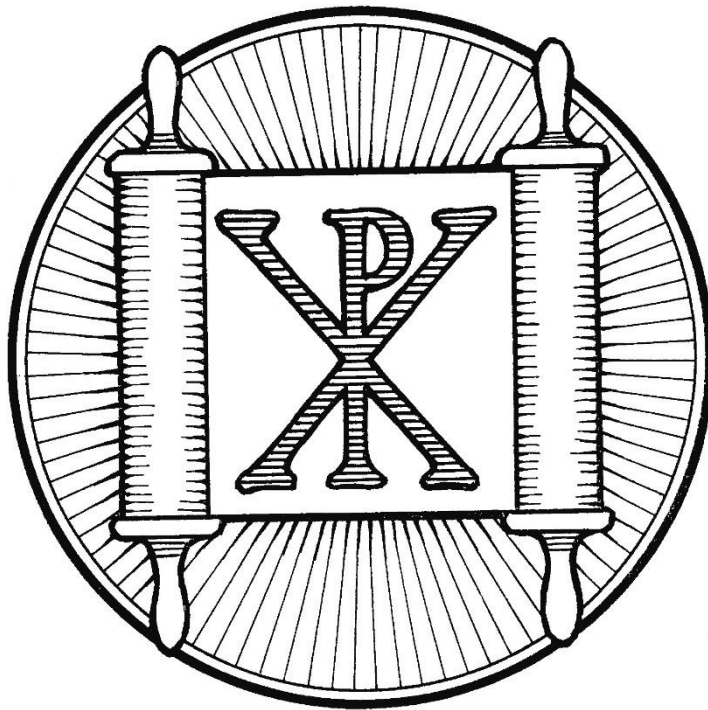


The Sacred Life: Meditation on Scripture, Prayer, and Struggle

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 45:4-8a	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
Monday	Psalm 119:129-138	Leviticus 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
Tuesday	Psalm 25:1-10	Leviticus 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
Wednesday	Psalm 19:7-14	Leviticus 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
Thursday	Psalm 17:7-15	Leviticus 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
Friday	Psalm 119:1-8	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8	Luke 11:1-13
Saturday	Psalm 36:7-12	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36

Looking Back at the Liturgy – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Theme: The sorrows which we experience from sin, death, and the world will be as quick as the pains in childbirth. But those sorrows will turn to joy as the moment of affliction passes and we experience pure joy and bliss in the promises granted in the resurrection of our Savior! This kind of joy is something that sin, death, and the world cannot rob us of!

Summary of Readings:

Isaiah 40:25-31 – God's promises seemed meaningless to God's chosen people because they lacked faith in God. Isaiah responds, prophesying the omnipotence of God, the creator of the whole world, the one true God above all other pagan gods! His will unfolds in ways that we cannot comprehend, but He reveals His will to us by sending God's kingdom to us in the person and works of Jesus! He resurrects folks!

1 Peter 2:11-20 – Peter tells his audience, which are both Jews and converted pagans, what it means to live as a Christian and the importance of living the Christian life. Christian behavior is a powerful impact to the unbelieving world! We are to be subject to our governing authorities. And any suffering that may come despite that is seen as a gracious thing in the eyes of God, much like Christ's sufferings!

John 16:16-22 – Prophesying His crucifixion, rest in the tomb, and resurrection, Jesus comforts the disciples before their sorrow strikes. Jesus tells them that though they will be sorrowful while the world rejoices in its evil, their sorrow will quickly turn to joy!

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer – The First Petition

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.

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!

Verse to Memorize: John 8:31b-32 – If you abide in My word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 147:1-11 (ESV)

¹Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise
is fitting.

²The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond
measure.

⁶The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the
lyre!

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the
horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
¹¹but the Lord takes pleasure in those who
fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast
love.

Luther's Prayer on Psalm 147:

You, O Lord, our merciful and gracious Father, who has given unto us the knowledge of Your free grace in Jesus Christ, grant us grateful hearts which daily offer to You the true sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, and graciously accept our sacrifices, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as

are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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.