**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

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**Living from the Liturgy**

*A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays*

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29 – February 4

*In Jonah we see ourselves. For Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord (Jonah 1:1–17), even as we sinners turn our backs on God and go our own way. This brings the storm of God’s judgment. But in Jonah we also see Christ. For even as he was in the great fish for three days and three nights, so also Christ Jesus was buried in the depths of death for us and raised on the third day. The Lord of creation, who rules over the wind and the wave (Mt 8:23–27), saved us from the fury of divine wrath by taking the judgment in His own body. His love is the fulfillment of the Law. (Rom 13:8–10) Though our faith be weak in the face of peril, yet we are kept in safety on the ship of the church; for the Son of God is with us. Though the whole creation groans with us under the curse, yet by Jesus’ speaking there is a great calm. For we know that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us. (Rom 8:18–23)*

**An Order for Daily Meditation and Prayer**

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate for yourself or your family.

**Daily Readings for the Week:**

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| Sunday, Jan. 29 | Review Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany |
| Monday, Jan. 30 | Luke 10:25-42 | Numbers 23-25 |
| Tuesday, Jan. 31 | Luke 11:1-36 | Numbers 26 |
| Wednesday, Feb. 1 | Luke 11:37-54 | Numbers 27-29 |
| Thursday, Feb. 2 | Luke 12:1-48 | Numbers 30-31 |
| Friday, Feb. 3 | Luke 12:49-59 | Numbers 32-33 |
| Saturday, Feb. 4 | Proverbs 8:1-11 | Psalm 52-55 |

**The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: First Part**

(*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 is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

*Which is that Word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

(Matt. 28:19)

**Psalm of the Week: 96**

**Introduction:** The 96th psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ in the world, in which should be nothing but joy and praise. The text is, truly, itself clear enough. In it, all the nations, lands, people, forests, seas, trees are called to worship. They should praise and thank the Lord because He judges and rules with righteousness and truth. That is, He delivers us from sins and all that sin brings with it, such as death, hell, the power of the devil, and all that is evil. This is the new song of the new kingdom from new creatures, from a new people, not born of the Law or works but born of God and Spirit. These are nothing less than miracles, done in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Luther’s Prayer:** Thanks to You, O Father of light, for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to establish a kingdom of grace and forgiveness among men on this earth. By Your Spirit, make us new creatures in heart, mind, soul, and sentiment, and teach us to sing the new song of this new kingdom with rejoicing and gladness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday after 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.

**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 the 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 wellbeing 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 sin.

**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, 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 LCC**

**Our Prayer Family:** The Wright Family

**A Sister Congregation:** Martini Lutheran Church – Baltimore, MD

 Rev. Elliott Robertson

**Our Children, Educators and Schools:** Logan Schettino

 Clarksburg Elementary School

**Special Prayers:** Craig Olson, Stacy Owens, Bob Droege, Helen Nine, Vonnie Stewart, Laura Parker, and the persecuted Church throughout the world.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer**

**Morning:**

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.

**Evening:**

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.

**Announcements January 29 – February 5, 2017**

**5th Sunday Offering for SED Outreach Ministries:** On January 29th, the fifth Sunday of the month, we continue our usual tradition of sponsoring one of our SED Outreach Ministries (This month: **Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf**) in which you can designate your offering to support this ongoing effort in the District.

**LESSONS FOR LAMBS** – Whether you have young children, youth, no children, or anything else, take some time to check out the Lessons for Lambs that are available next to the bulletins and sermon notes at the entrance to the sanctuary. If the ‘Living from the Liturgy’ insert happens to not be accessible for your family, please consider this resource as a helpful tool in building family devotions!

**Sunday Morning Christian Education:** Join us at 9am as we grow together in the faith of Christ.

**Children –Youth:** Gather on the Lower Level.

 **Theme:** Generations of Faith

 **Catechism Theme:** 10 Commandments

**Adults:** Gather in the Upper Room.

 **Theme:** “Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service”

 **Purpose:** To grow in and foster a common language for LCC regarding the Christian Faith as given in the Divine Liturgy and expressed in such areas as ‘Mission’, ‘Witness’, ‘Outreach’, ‘Daily Living’, and Christian Identity.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Class:** Join us at 10am at the Chapel at the Villages at Rockville (NLH) for a study on the Psalms and their use within the Church’s liturgical life. Our class meets year-round, and all ages are welcome to attend.

**The Lord’s Table Soup Kitchen** needs paper towel and napkins. Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex. Thanks to all who donated drink mixes.