**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

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**Living from the Liturgy**

*A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays*

Judica

April 2 – 8

*In the temple Jesus said, “If anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” (Jn 8:42–59) For Jesus came to taste death for us, to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death’s sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Holy of Holies and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people. (Heb 9:11–15) He is the Timeless One, who was before Abraham and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, who wears the crown of thorns upon His head. (Gen 22:1–14) Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross. For, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”*

**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, April 2 | Review Readings for Judica |
| Monday, April 3 | Acts 20:1-12 | I Samuel 24-25 |
| Tuesday, April 4 | Acts 20:13-38 | I Samuel 26-29 |
| Wednesday, April 5 | Acts 21:1-36 | I Samuel 30-31 |
| Thursday, April 6 | Acts 21:37-22:29 | II Samuel 1-4 |
| Friday, April 7 | Acts 22:30-23:35 | II Samuel 5-7 |
| Saturday, April 8 | Proverbs 12:1-18 | Psalm 79-80 |

**The Catechism: Confession**

(*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?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**Psalm of the Week: 43**

**Introduction:** The 43rd psalm is a psalm of prayer in which the psalmist laments over his sorrow that God was angry with him and had afflicted him. It is similar to [Psalm 42] and has nearly the same words in it. The psalmist desires also by light and truth to come to God’s house, that is, to be comforted in his misery by God’s Word.

**Luther’s Prayer:** O Lord, God of the afflicted and of all who are suffering wrongfully, have compassion upon those tempted by Satan and persecuted by the world. Comfort and strengthen both them and us by Your Word and Spirit, uphold us, and finally deliver us from all evil and receive us into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Collect for Judica**

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 Droege Family

**A Sister Congregation:** St. Paul’s Lutheran Church – Kingsville, MD

 Rev. Michael Wollman

**Our Children, Educators and Schools:** Katie Bertrand

 Fordham University

**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 April 2 – 9, 2017**

**LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Lenten Midweek Dinner and Evening Prayer**

 **Join us for our final Wednesday Midweek on April 5th**, with dinner served at 6:15pm and service to follow at 7:30pm.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**April 9th – Palm Sunday – 10:15am**

**April 13th – Maundy Thursday – 7:30pm**

**April 14th – Good Friday – 7:30pm**

**April 16th – Easter Sunday – 10:15am**

 ***Easter Breakfast – 8:15 – 9:30am***

**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 Gifts of the Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Our class meets year-round, and all ages are welcome to attend.

**Easter Lilies**: If you would like to order an Easter lily to be placed in the Chancel for our Easter service, please sign the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex or just let Marie know.  Lilies may be taken home after the service on Easter Day.  The cost will be $8.00.