

BREAD FOR THE DAY

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYERS

2019

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS

Minneapolis



Contents

Foreword	5
Introduction	6
January	
Prayer List for January	8
Blessing for a Home at Epiphany	14
Time after Epiphany	17
Table Prayer for Epiphany and the Time after Epiphany	17
February	
Prayer List for February	43
March	
Prayer List for March	72
Lent	78
Table Prayer for the Season of Lent	78
April	
Prayer List for April	105
Holy Week	119
Prayer for Placing Palms in the Home	119
The Three Days	124
Table Prayer for the Three Days	124
Easter	129
Table Prayer for the Season of Easter	129
May	
Prayer List for May	139
June	
Prayer List for June	171
Pentecost	180
Table Prayer for Pentecost	180
Thanksgiving for the Holy Spirit	180
Time after Pentecost—Summer	188
Table Prayer for Summer	188
July	
Prayer List for July	204
August	
Prayer List for August	236

September

Prayer List for September	268
Time after Pentecost—Autumn	269
Table Prayer for Autumn.	269

October

Prayer List for October.	300
----------------------------------	-----

November

Prayer List for November	332
Time after Pentecost—November	333
Table Prayer for November	333
Remembering Those Who Have Died.	334
Blessing of the Household for Thanksgiving Day	362

December

Prayer List for December	366
Advent	367
The Advent Wreath	367
An Evening Service of Light for Advent	368
Lighting the Advent Wreath, week 1.	368
Table Prayer for Advent	370
Lighting the Advent Wreath, week 2	378
Lighting the Advent Wreath, week 3	386
Lighting the Advent Wreath, week 4	394
Christmas	397
Table Prayer for the Twelve Days of Christmas	397
Lighting the Christmas Tree.	398
Blessing of the Nativity Scene	398

Additional Resources

Lesser Festivals and Commemorations.	407
Anniversary of Baptism (abbreviated)	416
Prayers for Various Situations	419
Morning Blessing	423
A Simplified Form for Morning Prayer.	424
A Simplified Form for Evening Prayer	427
Evening Blessing	430
Night Prayers with Children.	430
Suggestions for Daily Reflection	431

Foreword

Beloved of God,

For generations, the living word has sustained God's people. In times of prosperity and turmoil, joy and sorrow, the church has found hope and consolation in scripture.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has embraced the initiative called Book of Faith. In it we have committed ourselves to deepening our fluency in the first language of faith, holy scripture. Bread for the Day is a wonderful resource for your daily encounter with the word. You will be nourished, encouraged, and sustained, as have the saints before you.

As the Conference of Bishops, we invite you to join us and this whole church in persistent attentiveness to the word. Your faith will be deepened, your witness empowered, and your church enriched. God bless your journey in faith.

Conference of Bishops
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

For more about Book of Faith, visit www.bookoffaith.org.



Introduction

Daily prayer is an essential practice for those who seek to hear God's voice and cultivate an inner life. Whether you pray alone or with others, with brevity or sustained meditation, the rhythm of daily prayer reveals the life-sustaining communion to which God invites all human beings. Such prayer is a serene power silently at work, drawing us into the ancient yet vital sources of faith, hope, and love.

The guiding principle of the selection of daily readings in *Bread for the Day* is their relationship to the Sunday readings as presented in the Revised Common Lectionary (a system of readings in widespread use across denominations). The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect on the Sunday readings.

How this book is organized

- Each day's page is dated and named in relationship to the church's year. Lesser festivals are listed along with the date as part of the day heading. Commemorations are listed just below in smaller type. Notes on those commemorated can be found on pages 407–415.
- Several verses of one of the appointed scripture texts are printed. The full text citation is provided for those who would like to reflect on the entire text. In addition, two or three additional reading citations with short descriptions are provided.
- Two psalms are appointed for each week; one psalm for Monday through Wednesday and a second psalm for Thursday through Saturday. In this way the days leading up to Sunday or flowing out from Sunday have a distinct relationship with one another in addition to their relationship with the Sunday readings.

- Following the printed scripture text is a hymn suggestion from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and a prayer that incorporates a theme present in one or more of the readings.
- Household prayers and blessings appropriate to the changing seasons are placed throughout the book. Simplified forms of morning and evening prayer, morning and evening blessings, and prayers with children can be found on pages 424–430.

How to use this book

- Use the weekday readings to prepare for and reflect on the Sunday readings.
- Use the questions printed on page 431 to guide your reflection on the scripture texts.
- Use the resources for household prayer placed throughout the book. See the Contents on pages 3–4 for a complete list.
- Use the page at the beginning of each month to record prayer requests.
- In addition to being used to guide individual prayer, this book may also be used to guide family prayer, prayer in congregational or other settings during the week, prayer with those who are sick or homebound, or with other groups.

Even though Christians gather on the Lord’s day, Sunday, for public worship, much of our time is spent in the home. We first learn the words, gestures, and songs of faith in the home. We discover our essential identity as a community of faith and mark significant transitions of life in the home. To surround and infuse the daily rhythm of sleeping and waking, working, resting, and eating with the words and gestures of Christian prayer is to discover the ancient truth of the gospel: the ordinary and the human can reveal the mystery of God and divine grace. Like planets around the sun, our daily prayer draws us to the Sunday assembly where we gather for the word and the breaking of the bread in the changing seasons of the year. From the Sunday assembly, our daily prayer flows into the week.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Name of Jesus

Luke 2:15-21

The child is named Jesus

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:15-21)

Psalm

Psalm 8

How exalted is your name

Additional Readings

Numbers 6:22-27

The Aaronic blessing

Galatians 4:4-7

We are no longer slaves

Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! ELW 634

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Week of Christmas 1

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Proverbs 1:1-7

Grow in wisdom and knowledge

Let the wise also hear and gain in learning,
and the discerning acquire skill,
to understand a proverb and a figure,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov. 1:5-7)

Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20

Praising God in Zion

Additional Reading

James 3:13-18

The wisdom from above

Hymn: We Eat the Bread of Teaching, ELW 518

O Ancient of Days, all wisdom begins and ends in you. Grant us discerning hearts and minds that yearn to follow you and your ways both now and forever.

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Week of Christmas 1

Psalm 72

Prayers for the king

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service. (Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11)

Additional Readings

Job 42:10-17

Job's family

Luke 8:16-21

Jesus' family

Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory, ELW 275

We come before you, King of kings, grateful for your justice and mercy. We wait in eager anticipation and ask that you bring us to the day when all nations will gather around your throne and sing your praise.

Friday, January 4, 2019

Week of Christmas 1

Isaiah 6:1-5

The Lord high and lofty

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” (Isa. 6:1-5)

Psalm

Psalm 72

Prayers for the king

Additional Reading

Acts 7:44-53

Solomon's temple cannot contain God

Hymn: The Bells of Christmas, ELW 298

Holy God, we admit we are unworthy of your abiding presence. Heaven and earth cannot contain your glory, and yet you chose to dwell among us. We are humbled by your majesty and ask for eyes with which to see all your gifts.

Saturday, January 5, 2019

Week of Christmas 1

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Joy as God's scattered flock gathers

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again. (Jer. 31:10-12)

Psalm

Psalm 72

Prayers for the king

Additional Reading

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

God with us

Hymn: The First Noel, ELW 300

We are lost without you, God our shepherd. You lead us to joy and hope. Keep us close and overwhelm our desire to wander, that we may be nourished and sustained by you alone.

Blessing for a Home at Epiphany

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 19. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Greeting

Peace to this house and to all who enter here.

By wisdom a house is built,

and through understanding it is established;

through knowledge its rooms are filled

with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Prov. 24:3-4*)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household,

let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
(John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 19

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

19 and nineteen years ago.

+ Christ, bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God,

you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star.

We pray that you bless this home and all who live here

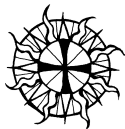
with your gracious presence.

May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide,

your truth our light, and your peace our benediction;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.



Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany of Our Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

Christ revealed to the nations

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet.” (Matt. 2:1-5)

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

All shall bow down

Additional Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Nations come to the light

Ephesians 3:1-12

The gospel’s promise for all

Hymn: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! ELW 308

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Time after Epiphany

On the Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), the household joins the church throughout the world in celebrating the manifestation, the “epiphany,” of Christ to the world. The festival of Christmas is thus set within the context of outreach to the larger community; it possesses an outward movement. The festival of the Epiphany asks the Christian household: How might our faith in Christ the Light be shared with friends and family, with our neighbors, with the poor and needy in our land, with those who live in other nations?

Table Prayer for Epiphany and the Time after Epiphany (January 6–March 5)

Generous God,

you have made yourself known in Jesus, the light of the world.

As this food and drink give us refreshment,

so strengthen us by your Spirit,

that as your baptized sons and daughters

we may share your light with all the world.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.