

## THE WHOLE BIBLE IN A YEAR! A New Daily Reading Guide

Let's read all of God's Word in a year! Ready for a challenge? Ready to learn and grow in the faith through God's Word from start to finish?

This coming year, our Daily Devotions guide that is printed each week will include an outline for reading the ENTIRE Bible over the course of a year's time. This Reading Guide comes from the hymnal we previously used, "Lutheran Worship." It is designed to cover all of God's Word in one year. There are a couple of neat features about this reading guide that are worth pointing out:

(1) The **Readings** are not all in order but are arranged to more or less reflect our liturgical church year. For example, in December we'll be reading Revelation followed by Isaiah, both of which point us to the end times as well as the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus. At the very end of the month, we'll begin reading Mark's Gospel. As another example: in March and April we see the fulfillment of the Torah as we read Deuteronomy followed by Luke's Gospel and the letters of Paul that focus on the salvation we have in Jesus, all around the time we are celebrating Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

(2) Almost every day features a **Psalms** so that we will read all 150 Psalms TWICE in the year. Each day, in the words of the Psalms, we hear Jesus speaking. We have the full range of emotions expressed to God in prayer: from sorrow and sadness to joy and gladness. Each day these words that Israel and the church have been praying for millennia become our own. They reflect the wants and worries of God's people throughout history and they are fitting words each and every day as we live by faith in a world that is foreign to God's people.

(3) Each month features a **Biblical "canticle."** Canticles are portions of the Bible that the church has highlighted as songs for use in worship. Each canticle is featured on the first and last day of the month. As an example, in December, the month in which we celebrate Christ's birth, we have the canticle of Luke 1:46-55, the song that Mary sang which we know of as the Magnificat (and use in Evening Prayer). Or, in

February, the month we celebrate our Lord's presentation in the temple, we have Luke 2:29-32, the Song of Simeon which we know as The Nunc Dimittis, which we sing after the Lord's Supper and hear at funerals.

The Bible, of course, is a big book! Very often it is filled with names that are hard to pronounce and places that we have never heard of. It was written over the course of many centuries in a culture with which most of us are not familiar. Here are some helpful tips for reading and understanding God's Word as we read it throughout the year.

- The whole Bible is about Jesus. As you read, as yourself, "How does this show my Jesus Christ? How does it point ahead to His coming? What is Jesus doing in this read? How is the work of Jesus described and proclaimed as a comfort for sinners?"
- When you come to difficult passages, it is OK to skim them! If you have trouble pronouncing a name or are lost in a list of names in a genealogy, that's OK! Just keep going and glorify God for what has been recorded.
- There are often passages that are hard to understand. If you read something and even read it again and it doesn't seem to make sense, do as Martin Luther recommends: "Glorify God and move on!"
- As you read, you will most likely have questions about what you're reading and how it all makes sense and fits together. As you read, jot down your thoughts and questions and bring them to Bible Study on Sundays or Tuesdays and Pastor will be happy to go into more depth.

As you read, remember these words from the Bible itself that help us understand why it is written and what we are to learn from it:

*"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31) and "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)*

(See other side for this week's Daily Devotions sheet)

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

For the Week of November 28 – December 4, 2021

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### READINGS

*(Our new Daily Reading Guide begins this Wednesday, December 1. Monday and Tuesday use the readings from the previous year's weekly reading guide.)*

<b>Monday (29)</b>	Psalm 50 & Judges 1
<b>Tuesday (30)</b>	Psalm 50 & Judges 13
<b>Wednesday (1)</b>	Luke 1:46-55 & Revelation 1-2
<b>Thursday (2)</b>	Psalm 1 & Revelation 3-5
<b>Friday (3)</b>	Psalm 2 & Revelation 6-8
<b>Saturday (4)</b>	Psalm 3 & Revelation 9-11

### THE CREED – The Second Article - Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYERS AND NOTES

*Use the space below to jot down names and needs, for prayers and notes and questions from your readings.*

**MORNING 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-

**EVENING PRAYER:** 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.