

Lutheran Church of Australia

How to read the Bible

February

Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

Get Into It Any Way You Can!

February 1st - 3 John 1-15.

Reflect: How do you know when your "soul is getting on well" (are spiritually healthy?) When you believe the truth (Gospel), show love, and are hospitable!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to walk in the truth and to faithfully serve others. Amen."

February 2nd - Jude 1-25.

Reflect: We are called to persevere in the faith. We are also reminded that God himself will keep us faithful. Salvation is by God's grace from beginning to end!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, in your mercy, keep me close to you at all times. Amen."

February 3rd - Revelation 1:1-20.

Reflect: John pictures Jesus standing in the midst of the seven Churches. He knew their troubles. He loved them. He had won the victory for them. So too for us!

Prayer: "Lord and Saviour, thank you that you are always with me. Amen."

February 4th - Revelation 2:1-29.

Reflect: What things would Jesus commend you for in your Christian life? What things would he want you to change? Which of his promises here encourages you?

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for giving me the right to eat of the tree of life. Amen."

February 5th - Revelation 3:1-22.

Reflect: Ask yourself the same questions as you did yesterday. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? Hot? Cold? Lukewarm? Getting warmer?

Prayer: "I hear your voice Lord, come in and renew my heart. Amen."

February 6th - Revelation 4:1-11.

Reflect: In the Sunday Liturgy, and especially in the Lord's Supper, we already participate on earth in this worship of God in heaven. How does that encourage you?

Prayer: "You are worthy Lord, to receive glory, honour and power. Amen."

February 7th - Revelation 5:1-14.

Reflect: The future (the scroll) is in the hands of our Lord Jesus, who is the Lamb who was slain to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. We are safe in his care!

Prayer: "All praise to you, Jesus, my victorious Lord and Redeemer. Amen."

February 8th - Revelation 6:1-17.

Reflect: The Lord will not be mocked. Judgement is coming. Despite the troubles of life and despite those who oppose God's will, the victory is ultimately God's!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank for saving me from the wrath to come. Amen."

February 9th - Revelation 7:1-17.

Reflect: The symbolic number 144,000 reminds us that God will rescue his people and that none will be forgotten. How do verses 14-17 encourage you in tough times?

Prayer: "Lord God, salvation does belong to you, all glory to your name! Amen."

February 10th - Revelation 8:1-13.

Reflect: The opening of the seventh seal ushers in the sounding of the seven trumpets. The theme of judgement and control being in God's hands is repeated once more.

Prayer: "Lord, you always hear my prayers. Make me more eager to pray. Amen."

February 11th - Revelation 9:1-21.

Reflect: Despite all this suffering, people still refused to repent! Are we in Australia today also this stubborn? Too deaf to hear? Too blind to see? Lord have mercy!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, move our nation to repent. Begin with my own heart. Amen."

February 12th - Revelation 10:1-11.

Reflect: God calls each of us to announce his message to the people around us (calling them to repentance and faith). How is this task both sweet and bitter to you?

Prayer: "Lord, give me the faith and the courage to speak for you."

Amen."

February 13th - Revelation 11:1-19.

Reflect: Despite persecution of his people, God remains in charge. As these troubles happen on earth, God is praised in all eternity. We are invited to join in this worship!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to trust that the future is in your hands. Amen."

February 14th - Revelation 12:1-18.

Reflect: Satan wasn't able to defeat Christ, so he next attempts to destroy Christ's followers. We too will overcome, not by ourselves, but by the blood of the Lamb!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you have given me the victory. Amen."

February 15th - Revelation 13:1-18.

Reflect: In the midst of our troubles we are called to show patient endurance and faithfulness. We know that in the end, even the worst of enemies can not defeat us!

Prayer: "When things get hard, keep me close to you, Lord Jesus! Amen."

February 16th - Revelation 14:1-20.

Reflect: We do not have the mark of the beast. Instead, **in Baptism**, we have been given the mark of the Father's name (we are his people). Let's live accordingly!

Prayer: "Holy Father, keep me faithful to Jesus, by your Spirit. Amen."

February 17th - Revelation 15:1-8.

Reflect: We echo the words of the heavenly choir, "Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty." The victory began in a manger!

Prayer: "Lord, not only are you Almighty, you are all compassionate. Amen."

February 18th - Revelation 16:1-21.

Reflect: Remember that Jesus was born **in order to** save us from this future wrath of God (His just judgement on those who refuse to repent.)

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that I have received new life. Amen."

February 19th - Revelation 17:1-18.

Reflect: The ancient City of Rome is symbolically described here as the representative of all the forces opposed to God. But Jesus, the Lamb, **has** and **will** overcome!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that I share in your victory! Amen."

February 20th - Revelation 18:1-24.

Reflect: We are warned not to participate in the evils of our world. Don't be fooled by the bright lights! What evils would Christ warn you about in your local community?

Prayer: "Lord, save me from the temptations that surround me each day. Amen."

February 21st - Revelation 19:1-21.

Reflect: The end of this world will not mean judgment for the Christian (Jesus was judged in our place on the cross) but our wedding day as we unite eternally with Jesus!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I long for the time when we can be together for ever! Amen."

February 22nd - Revelation 20:1-15.

Reflect: Satan does not have the power to destroy us (see John 10:27-28). Satan's power was broken on the cross and it will be finished for good on the Last Day.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that I am perfectly safe with you. Amen."

February 23rd - Revelation 21:1-27.

Reflect: The judgements of the Book of Revelation are meant to cause us to repent. The glory of heaven pictured here is meant to bring us great comfort and hope.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that my name is written in the Book of Life. Amen."

February 24th - Revelation 22:1-21.

Reflect: Who has the right to eat of the tree of life and enter the city of heaven? Only those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (believe in Jesus).

Prayer: "Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen."

February 25 - Matthew 1:1-24.

Reflect: Matthew shows Jesus' family tree going all the way back to Abraham. Jesus was truly human! He was also "God with us!"

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for sharing my humanity! Amen."

February 26 - Matthew 2:1-23.

Reflect: What is the "gold, incense and myrrh" in your life? How much of this (your time, money, energy) have you offered to Jesus?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to worship you with my whole life. Amen."

February 27 - Matthew 3:1-17.

Reflect: John didn't mince words with the Pharisees and Sadducees. What would he tell you to repent of? How would you react?

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, produce in me the fruit of repentance."

Amen."

February 28 - Matthew 4:1-25.

Reflect: What is your greatest temptation right now? What would help you the most to resist this temptation? Remember Christ is our victory!

Prayer: "Jesus, thank you for defeating Satan on my behalf. Amen."