



For your life in Christ the Week of
Holy Cross Day
September 15-21, 2025

How to use this resource: Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able or as your family size and ages dictate. You will need your Bible, a Catechism, and an LSB Hymnal. Other resources named within may enrich your meditation.

Begin

Invocation

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.

Hymn of the Week

LSB #559 “Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion” (vv. 1-3)

Recite

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
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.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Verse of the Week: John 12:32

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (ESV)

The Family Altar
A Guide for Daily Meditation and
Prayer in the Christian Home

Meditate

Psalm: 60-Day Psalm Schedule

	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>	<i>Sun.</i>
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128	130	132	134
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	129	131	133	135

Daily Bible Stories

<i>Day</i>	Week 3: Old Testament Stories
Monday	Saul Seeks Counsel from a Medium - 1 Samuel 28:3-25
Tuesday	The Tragic Death of King Saul - 1 Samuel 31:1-13
Wednesday	David Mourns the Death of Saul - 2 Samuel 1:1-16 (17-27)
Thursday	David Reigns over All Israel - 2 Samuel 5:1-5 (6-8) 9-10 (11-25)
Friday	The Ark Is Brought to Jerusalem - 2 Samuel 6:1-19
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

September 15	2 Chr 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33, Col 2:8-23 <i>Nahum 1:1-3:19</i>
September 16	2 Chr 35:1-7, 16-25, Col 3:1-25 <i>Zeph 1:1-3:20</i>
September 17	2 Chr 36:1-23, Col 4:1-18 <i>Philemon 1-25</i>
September 18	Neh 1:1-2:10, 1 Tim 1:1-20 <i>Haggai 1:1-2:23</i>
September 19	Neh 2:11-20; 4:1-6, 1 Tim 2:1-15
September 20	Neh 4:7-23, 1 Tim 3:1-16
September 21	Neh 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16, 1 Tim 4:1-16

Study

The Catechism

Participants may choose to study the catechism at their own pace or follow along with the selected portion of the catechism for the week.

The 3rd and 4th Commandments

See pp. 5-6 of the Learn By Heart Catechism

Catechism In-Depth

1991 Catechism: Questions #35-51

2017 Catechism: Questions #48-58

Catechism Bible Story

The Boy Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:41-52



Pray

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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 well-being 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 besetting sins. **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, deacons, 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. **Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Close

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

Amen.

Observing the Church Year

Liturgical Color(s) of the Week: Green; Red

Green - The color of growth. During this season we grow and mature in our understanding of Jesus and His teachings.

Red - The color of fire and blood. Red symbolizes the gift of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs.

Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations This Week

NOTE: The following resources contain great summaries of the observances of the church year

1. TDP— “Treasury of Daily Prayer”
2. CS— “Celebrating the Saints”

September 16 - Cyprian of Carthage, Pastor and Martyr (G) (TDP p. 728; CS p. 170)

September 21 - St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist (R) (TDP p. 743; CS p. 172)

Looking Forward to Sunday

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: Ezekiel 2:8–3:11; Ephesians 4:7–16; Matthew 9:9–13

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Our Ascended Lord gives gifts to His Church. In particular He gave apostles and evangelists like St. Matthew, prophets like Ezekiel, and still gives pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:8, 11). All are for the common good, empowered by the same Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7, 11). They speak Christ’s truth in love to wind- and wave-tossed children so that the saints may be equipped, served, and built up as the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12–15). Christ is not only the Head of this body; He is her Good Physician (Matt. 9:9–13). He has come not for the well but for the sick, not for the righteous, but for sinners—even notorious tax collectors like Matthew. Christ’s team of spiritual physicians must serve faithfully. Their instrument is “Thus says the Lord God,” to be spoken “whether they hear or refuse to hear” (Ezek. 3:11). To those stubborn, rebellious patients who believe they need no physician, the Word of lamentation, mourning, and woe must be fearlessly spoken: God’s Law calls to repentance. To those who recognize their trouble and sickness, the salve of the Gospel is to be applied. So Christ works to save us, as Matthew’s Gospel records.