The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Trinity
July 20–26, 2026

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 #594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" (v. 1)

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: Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (ESV)

Meditate

Psalm: *60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	Mon.	***Tues.***	***Wed.***	***Thurs.***	***Fri.***	***Sat.***	***Sun.***
Morning	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1–24	119:49–72	119:89–112
Evening	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25–48	119:73–88	119:113–136

Daily Bible Stories

Day	**Week 47: New Testament Stories**
Monday	The Parable of the Fig Tree – Luke 21:29–38
Tuesday	The Word Made Flesh – John 1:1–18
Wednesday	The First Disciples – John 1:35–51
Thursday	Jesus' First Cleansing of the Temple – John 2:13–22
Friday	Jesus Catechizes Nicodemus – John 3:1–16
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

July 20	1 Sam 3:1–21, Acts 16:1–22
July 21	1 Sam 4:1–22, Acts 16:23–40 *Acts 17:1–34*
July 22	1 Sam 5:1-6:3, 10-16, Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
July 23	1 Sam 6:19—7:17, Acts 19:1–22 *Acts 19:23—21:14*
July 24	1 Sam 8:1–22, Acts 21:15–36
July 25	1 Sam 9:1–27, Acts 21:37—22:16
July 26	1 Sam 10:1–27, Acts 22:17–29

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.



Table of Duties: To Parents and To Children

Catechism In-Depth
1991 Catechism: Page #38
2017 Catechism: Pages #35–36

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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; White; Red*

Green – The color of growth. During this season we grow and mature in our understanding of Jesus and His teachings.
White – The color of the pure glory of Christ and the angels. Jesus comes at the fullness of time as the complete fulfillment of God's promises. Jesus' resurrection is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before the Father becomes our purity.
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"

July 20 – Elijah (G) (TDP p. 542; CS p. 120)
July 21 – Ezekiel (G) (TDP p. 546; CS p. 122)
July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene (W) (TDP p. 549; CS p. 124)
July 25 – St. James the Elder (R) (TDP p. 559; CS p. 126)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Eighth Sunday after Trinity
Readings: Jeremiah 23:16–29; Acts 20:27–38 or Romans 8:12–17; Matthew 7:15–23
Beware of False Prophets
"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. "You will recognize them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:20). The "fruits" of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success, but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father's adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.