The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
July 27–August 2, 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" (vv. 1–2)

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 8:15*

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (ESV)

Meditate

Psalm: *60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	Mon.	***Tues.***	***Wed.***	***Thurs.***	***Fri.***	***Sat.***	***Sun.***
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

Day	**Week 48: New Testament Stories**
Monday	John the Baptist Exalts the Christ – John 3:22–36
Tuesday	Jesus' Food Is to Do the Father's Will – John 4:31–38
Wednesday	The Nobleman's Son Is Healed – John 4:(43–45) 46–54
Thursday	The Jews Seek to Kill Jesus for Breaking the Sabbath – John 5:10–23
Friday	Life and Judgment through the Son – John 5:24–30
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

July 27	1 Sam 12:1–25, Acts 22:30—23:11
July 28	1 Sam 13:1–18, Acts 23:12–35
July 29	1 Sam 14:47—15:9, Acts 24:1–23
July 30	1 Sam 15:10–35, Acts 24:24—25:12
July 31	1 Sam 16:1–23, Acts 25:13–27
August 1	1 Sam 17:1–19, Acts 26:1–23
August 2	1 Sam 17:20–47, Acts 26:24—27:8

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 Workers of All Kinds and To Employers and Supervisors

Catechism In-Depth
1991 Catechism: Pages #38–39
2017 Catechism: Page #37

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; 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*

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

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 28 – Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor (**G**) (TDP p. 568; CS p. 128) July 29 – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany (**G**) (TDP p. 572; CS p. 130)
July 30 – Robert Barnes, Confessor and Martyr (**G**) (TDP p. 575; CS p. 132)
July 31 – Joseph of Arimathea (**G**) (TDP p. 579; CS p. 134)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Ninth Sunday after Trinity
Readings: 2 Samuel 22:26–34; 1 Corinthians 10:6–13; Luke 16:1–9 (10–13)

The Steward's Shrewdness Sanctified

"The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness" (Luke 16:1–9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when their earthly home fails. These provide us aid in times of temptation (1 Cor. 10:6–13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam. 22:26–34).