The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 17–23, 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. 1–5)

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: *1 Corinthians 15:3–5*

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." (ESV)

Meditate

Psalm: *60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	Mon.	*Tues.*	*Wed.*	*Thurs.*	*Fri.*	*Sat.*	*Sun.*
Morning	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38

Daily Bible Stories

Day	**Week 51: New Testament Stories**
Monday	Jesus Is the True Shepherd – John 9:35–10:6
Tuesday	The Shepherd Knows the Sheep – John 10:22–42
Wednesday	The Death of Lazarus – John 11:1–16
Thursday	Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life – John 11:17–37
Friday	Lazarus Is Raised from the Dead – John 11:38–44
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

Daily Lectionary Readings

August 17	2 Sam 7:1–17, 1 Cor 9:24—10:22
August 18	2 Sam 7:18–29, 1 Cor 10:23—11:16
August 19	2 Sam 11:1–27, 1 Cor 11:17–34 *(Ps 51)*
August 20	2 Sam 12:1–25, 1 Cor 12:1–13 *2 Sam 13:1—19:4, (Ps 60 / 3)*
August 21	1 Kng 1:1–4, 15–35, 1 Cor 12:14–31
August 22	1 Kng 2:1–27, 1 Cor 13:1–13 *1 Cor 14:1—16:23*
August 23	1 Kng 3:1–15, 2 Cor 1:1–22 *1 Kng 3:16—4:34*

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.



Review The Creed
See pp. 8–9 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, 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"

August 17 – Johann Gerhard, Theologian (G) (TDP p. 632; CS p. 144)
August 19 – Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymnwriter and Theologian (G) (TDP p. 638; CS p. 146)
August 20 – Samuel (G) (TDP p. 642; CS p. 148)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; 2 Corinthians 3:4–11 or Romans 10:9–17; Mark 7:31–37

Faith Comes from Hearing

A man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31–37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:9–17). Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus' mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:4–11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus' sighing "Ephphatha" opened the man's ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book" (Is. 29:18–24). So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.