The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
September 28–October 4, 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 #870 "Now That the Daylight Fills the Sky" (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: *Proverbs 23:22*

"Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."

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 *5*: Old Testament Stories**
Monday	The Three Visitors – Genesis 18:1–15
Tuesday	Abraham Prays for Sodom – Genesis 18:16–33
Wednesday	Sodom and Gomorrah Are Destroyed – Genesis 19:1 (2–11) 12–29
Thursday	Abraham and Abimelech – Genesis 20:1–18
Friday	Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out – Genesis 21:1–21
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

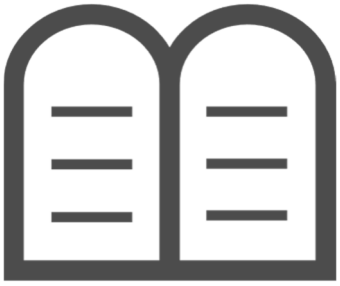
Daily Lectionary Readings

September 28	Deut 1:1–18, Matt 5:1–20
September 29	Deut 1:19–36, Matt 5:21–48
September 30	Deut 1:37—2:15, Matt 6:1–15
October 1	Deut 2:16–37, Matt 6:16–34
October 2	Deut 3:1–29, Matt 7:1–12
October 3	Deut 4:1–20, Matt 7:13–29
October 4	Deut 4:21–40, Matt 8:1–17

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 4th Commandment
See p. 6 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Catechism In-Depth
1991 Catechism: Questions #48–51
2017 Catechism: Questions #54–58

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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*

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.

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 29 – St. Michael and All the Angels (W) (TDP p. 768; CS p. 176)
September 30 – Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture (TDP p. 771; CS p. 178)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Readings: Deuteronomy 10:12–21; 1 Corinthians 1:(1–3) 4–9; Matthew 22:34–46

In Life and Death, Christ Fulfills the Law of God

The Pharisees ask a Law question. Jesus asks a Gospel question. The Pharisees seek to test Jesus in His own words. Jesus seeks to "test" them in the saving reality of who He is as the Messiah (Matt. 22:34–46). The Law requires you to "fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" and to "love the sojourner" (Deut. 10:12–21). Failure to keep the Law perfectly brings judgment. On the other hand, the Gospel brings the grace of God given by Jesus Christ, that you may be blameless in the day of His return (1 Cor. 1:1–9). Jesus is David's Son yet David's Lord, true God and true man. He is Love incarnate who fulfilled all the demands of God's Law on our behalf, that we might be saved from the Law's condemnation and sanctified in the Gospel's forgiveness. Thereby we see that "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).