The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
October 5–11, 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. 1–3)

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: *Proverbs 24:1–2*

"Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble."

Meditate

Psalm: *60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	Mon.	***Tues.***	***Wed.***	***Thurs.***	***Fri.***	***Sat.***	***Sun.***
Morning	136	138	140	142	144	147	148
Evening	137	139	141	143	145	146	149, 150

Daily Bible Stories

Day	**Week 6: Old Testament Stories**
Monday	The Sacrifice of Isaac – Abraham's Faith Is Revealed – Genesis 22:1–19
Tuesday	Abraham Sends for a Bride for Isaac – Genesis 24:1–28
Wednesday	Rebekah – Genesis 24:29 (30–31) 32–38 (39–41) 42–49 (50–57) 58–67
Thursday	Jacob and Esau – Esau Sells His Birthright – Genesis 25:19–34
Friday	Isaac and Abimelech – Genesis 26:1–11
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

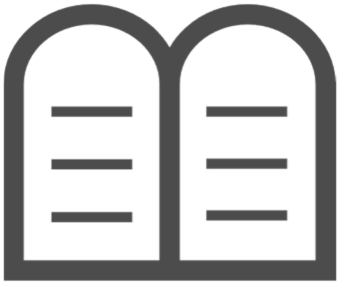
Daily Lectionary Readings

October 5	Deut 5:1–21, Matt 8:18–34
October 6	Deut 5:22—6:9, Matt 9:1–17
October 7	Deut 6:10–25, Matt 9:18–38
October 8	Deut 7:1–19, Matt 10:1–23
October 9	Deut 8:1–20, Matt 10:24–42
October 10	Deut 9:1–22, Matt 11:1–19
October 11	Deut 9:23—10:22, Matt 11:20–30

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 5th Commandment
See p. 6 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Catechism In-Depth
1991 Catechism: Questions #42–54
2017 Catechism: Questions #59–64

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

O God, because without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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"

October 7 – Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor (TDP p. 791; CS p. 180)
October 9 – Abraham (TDP p. 797; CS p. 182)
October 11 – Philip the Deacon (TDP p. 804; CS p. 184)

Looking Forward to Sunday

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Readings: Genesis 28:10–17; Ephesians 4:22–28; Matthew 9:1–8

Jesus' Incarnation Secures for Us Life, Forgiveness, and Healing

The Lord does not require us to ascend to Him; in mercy He descends to us (Gen. 28:10–17). The ladder in Jacob's dream was not for climbing; it was the means by which the Lord came to bless Jacob. This event finds its fulfillment in Christ who descended from His throne to save and bless us. By His incarnation He is the eternal bridge between heaven and earth. "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Matt. 9:1–8). The Lord was present in the flesh to absolve the paralytic. Jesus also healed and restored this man's body. "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism). The Lord still has power on earth to forgive sins. In holy absolution He raises up the new man (Eph. 4:22–28) and bestows the healing medicine which will bring about our resurrection on the Last Day. Thus we say with Jacob, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen. 28:17).