The Family Altar

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the Christian Home



For your life in Christ the Week of Reformation (Observed)
October 26–November 1, 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 #679 "Oh, How Blest Are They" (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 22:1*

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

Meditate

Psalm: *60-Day Psalm Schedule*

	Mon.	***Tues.***	***Wed.***	***Thurs.***	***Fri.***	***Sat.***	***Sun.***
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

Daily Bible Stories

Day	**Week 9: Old Testament Stories**
Monday	Jacob Wrestles with God – Genesis 32:22-32
Tuesday	Jacob and Esau Meet – Genesis 33:1–11
Wednesday	The Rape of Dinah – Genesis 34:1–31
Thursday	Jacob Returns to Bethel – Genesis 35:1–15
Friday	Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father – Genesis 35:16–20, 22b–29
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings (see last page)
Sunday	Attend Divine Service

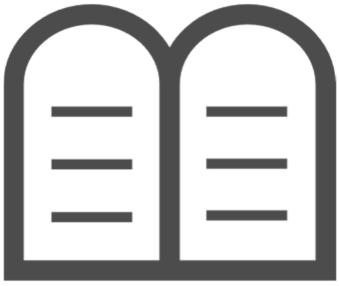
Daily Lectionary Readings

October 26	Deut 28:1–22, Matt 18:1–20
October 27	Deut 29:1–29, Matt 18:21–35
October 28	Deut 30:1–20, Matt 19:1–15
October 29	Deut 31:1–29, Matt 19:16–30
October 30	Deut 31:30—32:27, Matt 20:1–16
October 31	Deut 32:28–52, Matt 20:17–34 *Deut 33:1–29*
November 1	Deut 34:1–12, Matt 21:1–22

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 8th Commandment
See p. 6 of the Learn by Heart Catechism

Catechism In-Depth
1991 Catechism: Questions #61–62
2017 Catechism: Questions #83–87

Pray

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collect for the Week:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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**: Red; White*

Red – The color of fire and blood. Red symbolizes the gift of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs.
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"

October 26 – Philip Nicolai, Johann Heerman, and Paul Gerhardt, Hymnwriters (TDP p. 851; CS p. 194)
October 28 – St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles (R) (TDP p. 857; CS p. 196)
October 31 – Reformation Day (R) (TDP p. 868; CS p. 198)
November 1 – All Saints Day (W) (TDP p. 870; CS p. 200)

Looking Forward to Sunday

All Saints' Day
Readings: Revelation 7:(2–8) 9–17; 1 John 3:1–3; Matthew 5:1–12

Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ

"A great multitude from all tribes and peoples and languages" cry out "salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9–17). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we too "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:1–3). Joined with the throng of angels and a myriad of saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:9–17). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits, and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure, and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).