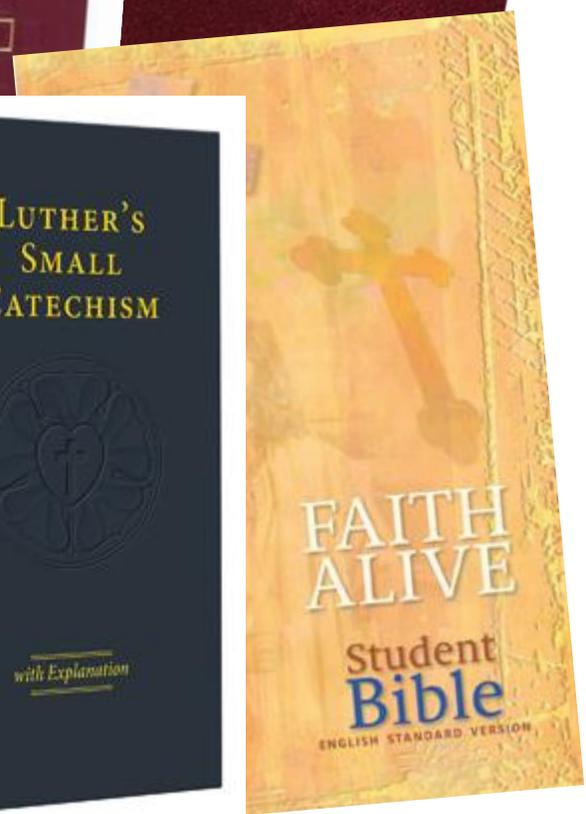
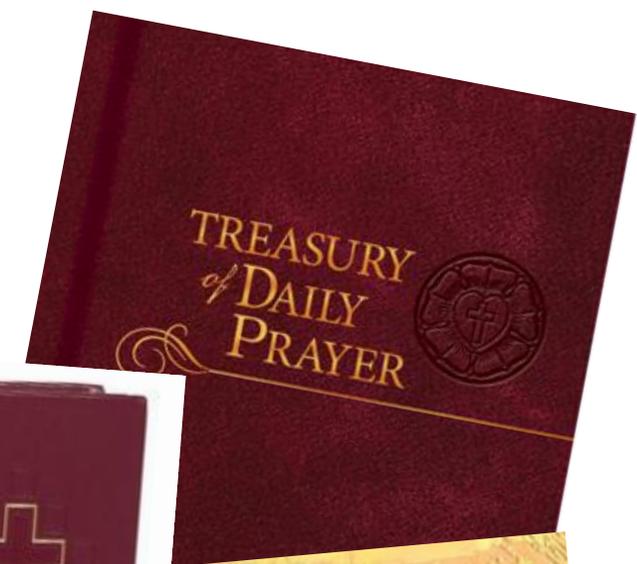
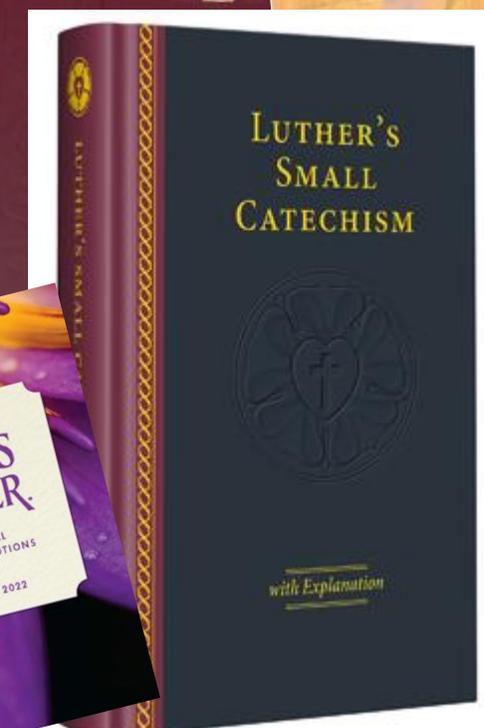
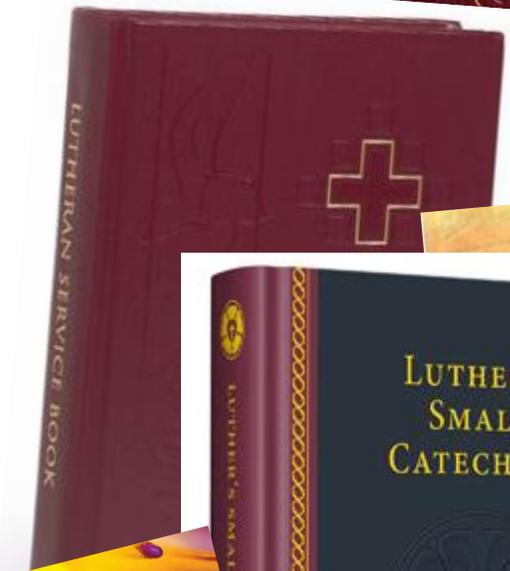
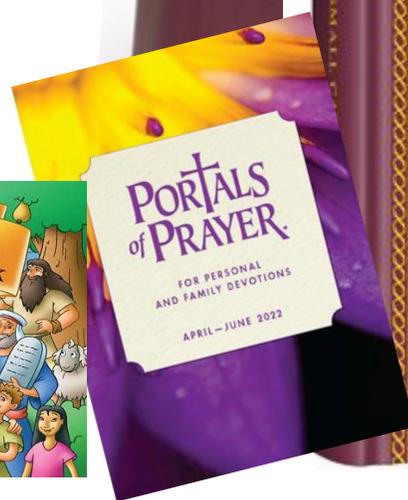
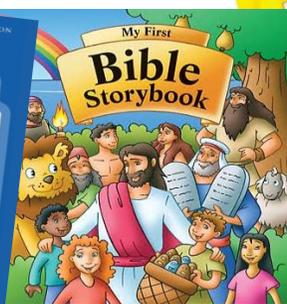
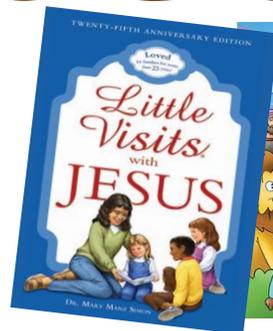


Devotion and Bible Study Resources





St. Peter Lutheran Church - Personal and Family Home Devotion and Bible Study Resources

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1

It might be a math problem. Of 168 hours in a week, roughly 112 we are awake, and for likely 60 of those we are exposed to various media and social interactions. It's no secret that the world wants us to believe things which God does not want us to believe! Under a constant barrage, we are lured to think that God had it wrong. *"Did God really say?"* pervades daily life. What is the right amount of time to commit to the word of God?

Spending regular time in the word, the Holy Spirit gives us encouragement to defeat sin, view others in light of our fallen state, and reminds us of our true love. It grants an opportunity in a busy world to look up with our needs, as well as our praise. It reminds us that "I'm but a stranger here. Heaven is my home."

So...

The Board of Elders requested and received a grant from the St. Peter Endowment Fund to provide home devotion resources to members at no cost. If you are already doing this on your own, great! Consider opportunities to add resources.



St. Peter Lutheran Church - Personal and Family Home Devotion and Bible Study Resources

Now...

1. Find the resources table in the Narthex. **Take this booklet to help decide what devotional resource(s) to select.**
2. **Pick up your first choice and take it home.** If there are none left, mark the sign-up sheet
3. Take as many copies as will be needed for your family to adequately participate, considering that perhaps just one is enough until you settle into a plan.
4. Slumps and “busy” may happen. **Your commitment to the congregation is this – leave at least one copy or element of your devotional in a prominent place** so that you don’t fall into a permanent slump. The rest of the copies can go in a bookshelf for tidiness, but one stays out – on the kitchen table, on TV stand, near the coffee maker, etc.
5. If you find a particular resource is not working well for you, or you want to try out others, bring the originals back and trade them in.
6. If you find that something is working well for you, consider it yours. We’re so glad you found value, it was an investment in you that was well worth the cost. If you get all the way through it, or want to up your game, come and get a different resource.

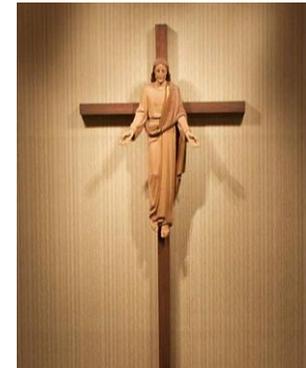


Why do individual/family devotions and personal Bible study?

- We need to combat the devil, our flesh, and the constantly and rapidly increasing incompatible societal norms.
- Faith comes by hearing. Even if interrupted or imperfectly delivered, the Spirit does his work through the Word.
- Children (and parents) learn doctrine and the vocabulary of the Bible.
- It reinforces that what is learned in school religion or confirmation classes, Bible classes, and church services - not just something left on-campus, but manifested in daily lives.
- It prepares our minds for our day, reminds us we exist beyond this life and its struggles or pleasures.
- As fathers and heads of household (recall the Catechism), we are asked to teach based on the command of God.
- We are blessed by the word.

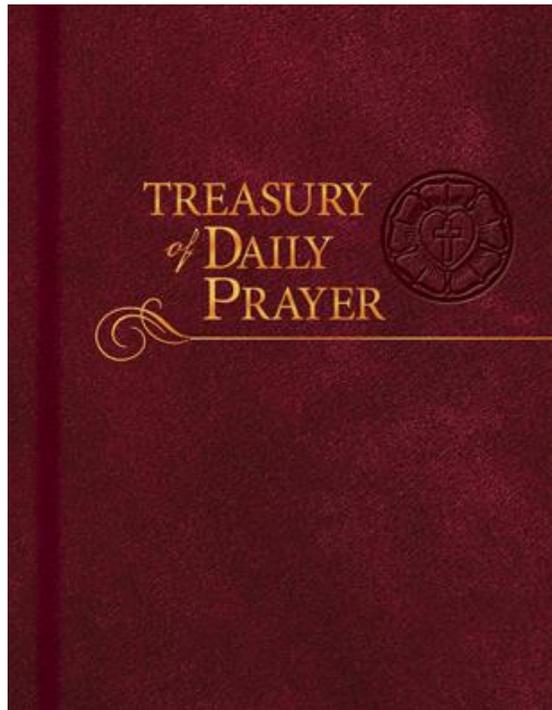
How to do family devotions?

- Pastor Daenzer, Director of Worship – LCMS, has prepared this short video on why to do it - <https://youtu.be/JTdVEnuoZ4o> and what it looks like <https://youtu.be/OdWrT1I-XSA> .
- Choose from the presented resources
 - Treasury of Daily Prayer – If you have outgrown lighter resources, this is for you
 - Small Catechism with Explanation – Includes a devotional plan. Learn vocabulary, immediate life application
 - Hymnal – Just add a Bible and you have your readings and prayers
 - Around the Word online – View/print, just add a Bible and you have your readings and prayers and a hymn verse
 - Portals of Prayer – Brief and to the point, just add a Bible
- Supplement with additional resources
 - ESV Bible – Same version as what we use for everything at St. Peter, in case you lack one.
 - 2nd Grade Bible – Same as ESV, but adds some aids for understanding, and is exactly what is used in our grade school for consistency.
 - LSB hymnals – enough for each reading family member
 - Catechism – Especially, but not only, for families going through the process
- Have children participate as much as possible
 - Very young listeners begin to memorize the creeds, the Lord's prayer, hymns
 - Young readers can learn to look up Bible passages
 - Older readers can be assigned one of the readings
- Engage in formality
 - Our church is one of intentional formality and liturgy – we bring ourselves into God's awesome presence and as such we assume a respectful posture and observe ritual. We can reflect and reinforce this in our home devotional time.



Treasury of Daily Prayer

- Very formal and liturgical.
- Almost a short service each day, longer readings, writings by church fathers, hymn, prayers
- If familiar with at least a goodly number of theological terms, very enlightening. Supplement with a catechism, which has a glossary of terms, which may help.
- Readings based on church year lectionaries and season, so you follow right along with our services.
- Readings get you through a large chunk of the Bible in a year.
- Familiarizes with some of the church fathers and their writings. Wonderful insights.
- Lends significantly toward Biblical literacy



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Treasury of Daily Prayer example

- The following images example one day of readings, not including the other suggested formal prayers and additional readings
- Psalm, OT reading, NT reading, the Writing, a Hymn verse, Prayer of the Day, and sometimes a historical figure biography

2 NOVEMBER

Psalmody

²²The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
—Psalm 118:22–24

Additional Psalm: Psalm 118

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1:1–19

¹The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ²to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”

⁷But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

¹¹And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.” ¹²Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.”

¹³The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.” ¹⁴Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land. ¹⁵For behold, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, declares the LORD, and they shall come, and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls all around and against all the cities of Judah. ¹⁶And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands. ¹⁷But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the

whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”

New Testament Reading:

Matthew 21:23–46

The Authority of Jesus Challenged

²³And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before

Treasury example (cont'd)

you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

The Parable of the Tenants

³³“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.

³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.” ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to

pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Writing

It is of the utmost importance that we highly esteem, honor, and rely upon the holy sacraments, which contain nothing but God’s words, promises, and signs. This means that we have no doubts about the sacraments or the things of which they are certain signs, for if we doubt these we lose everything. Christ says that it will happen to us as we believe. What will it profit you to assume and to believe that sin, death, and hell are overcome in Christ for others, but not to believe that your sin, your death, and your hell are also vanquished and wiped out and that you are thus redeemed? Under those circumstances the sacraments will be completely fruitless, since you do not believe the things which are indicated, given, and promised there to you. That is the vilest sin that can be committed, for God himself is looked upon as a liar in his Word, signs, and works, as one who speaks, shows, and promises something which he neither means nor intends to keep. Therefore we dare not trifle with the sacraments. Faith must be present for a firm reliance and cheerful venturing on such signs and promises of God. What sort of a God or Savior would he be who could not or would not save us from sin, death, and hell?

Whatever the true God promises and effects must be something big.

—Martin Luther

Hymnody

My song is love unknown,
My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I

That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

—My Song Is Love Unknown
(LSB 430:1)

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (A80)

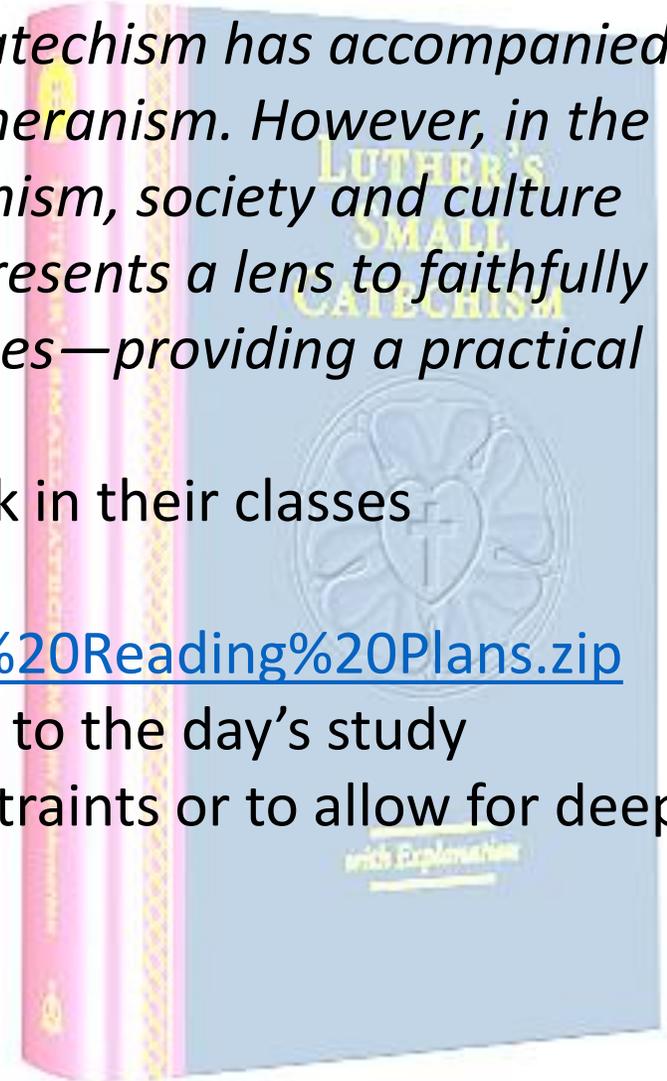
Suggested Reading from the Book of Concord

Apology of the Augsburg
Confession XXIV (XII) 30–34

3 NOVEMBER

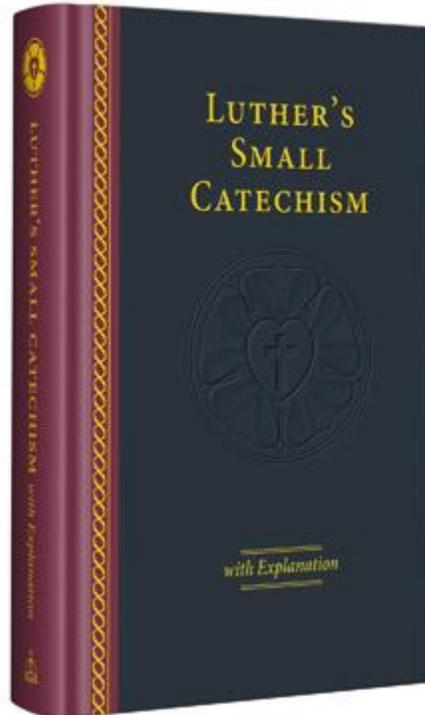
Small Catechism with Explanation

- Luther's Small Catechism as you know it, but with *"An explanation designed to help readers understand and apply Luther's Small Catechism has accompanied editions of the catechism since the early days of Lutheranism. However, in the time since Luther wrote his explanation to the catechism, society and culture have changed dramatically. The 2017 Explanation presents a lens to faithfully understand God's Word in the midst of changing times—providing a practical guide for living the daily Christian life."*
- Awesome for following along with Catechumen work in their classes
- Devotional reading plan -
<https://communication.cph.org/hubfs/Catechism%20Reading%20Plans.zip>
 - Includes Prayer and hymn (add hymnal) relevant to the day's study
 - Easy to chunk up further if needed for time constraints or to allow for deeper discussion



Catechism

- Accompanying devotional guide



- **READING #1:**
The First Commandment and its meaning, pg. 58–66

Central Thought: pg. 58
Luke 12:13–34 (TLSB pg. 1740)
Reflection Question: In what ways does God generously provide me with all that I need for my daily life and my eternal salvation?
Closer Reading: pg. 58-62
Connections and Applications: pg. 62-66
Close on page 66: Psalm 1, Hymn (LSB 581, stanzas 1–2), Prayer
- **READING #2:**
The Second Commandment and its meaning, pg. 67–73

Central Thought: pg. 67
Luke 1:39–56 pg. (TLSB pg.1706)
Reflection Question: How can I show that God is my Creator and Redeemer by the way I speak and in my daily conversations with others?
Closer Reading: pg. 67
Connections and Applications: pg. 71
Close on page 73: Psalm 135, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 3), Prayer

Catechism

- Compressed explanation pages shown here
- The Central Thought
- Bible-supported answers to questions
- Hymn and Prayer

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Central Thought

When we trust God with our hearts, we use our lips to call upon Him as our Creator and Redeemer.

How is God's name used today? How does this reflect and affect the way people think about God?

Read **Luke 1:39–56**. What inspired Mary to praise God's name?

✘ *As Christians, we treasure and honor God's name with our prayers, praise, and witness.*

How can I show that God is my Creator and Redeemer by the way I speak and in my daily conversations with others?

A Closer Reading of the Small Catechism

42. What is God's name?

God Himself reveals His name to us in Scripture.

A. In the Old Testament, God reveals His personal name: Yahweh ("I am").

98 **Exodus 3:13–15** Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD [Yahweh], the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God

of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

B. In the incarnation, God reveals the fullness of His grace with a new personal name: Jesus, which means "Yahweh saves." Christians also confess, "Jesus is Lord," meaning Jesus is Yahweh in human flesh.

99 **Matthew 1:21** You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

100 **1 Corinthians 12:3** No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

101 **Philippians 2:10–11** So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Note: In confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, we confess that Jesus is Yahweh, namely, the one true God, the God of the Old and New Testaments, come in our human flesh. See also **Romans 10:13**, as it quotes **Joel 2:32**.

Psalm 135, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 3)

Prayer: Holy Father, purify our lips from every misuse of Your name by cursing, swearing, superstition, lying, or deception. Open our mouths to reverence Your holy name, calling upon it in every time of trouble, praying for what You promise to give, praising You for Your glory, and giving thanks to You as the giver of every good and perfect gift; this we ask in the name that gives us access to You, the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Catechism

- Index of topics relevant to today and always
- Glossary for help with terms here and elsewhere
- Many other resources like church calendar, other terms definitions, common symbols, etc

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EXPLANATION OF SMALL CATECHISM

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EXPLANATION OF SMALL CATECHISM

Catechism Glossary

Absolution The pastor’s announcement of the forgiveness of sins.	or groups that had been enemies.
absolve To forgive sins.	attribute A trait or characteristic.
active obedience Jesus’ fulfillment of the Law in our place.	begotten Brought into existence by a father.
agnosticism A philosophy or worldview that expresses uncertainty about the existence of God. Agnostics believe that we cannot really know anything about God or His presence or activity in the world.	catechism A book explaining the basic teachings of the Christian faith.
altar and pulpit fellowship An agreement between church bodies allowing members to attend Holy Communion, and pastors to preach, in one another’s churches.	chaste To be sexually pure in thoughts, words, and actions.
atheism A philosophy or worldview that denies the existence of God and His presence and activity in the world.	Christ A Greek title for Jesus meaning “the Anointed One.”
atone To make up for a wrong that has been done.	Church Militant The Church as it is on earth, still struggling against sin and Satan.
atonement An act that brings together, or makes “at one,” two individuals	Church Triumphant The Church as it is in heaven, glorified and living forever in Christ’s presence.
	communication of attributes Sharing of attributes between Christ’s divine and human natures.
	confess To say that you are sorry for your sins; to state what you believe.
	confession A personal statement of one’s sins; a statement of faith.

Around the Word daily devotions

- Online / printable weekly - Just add a bible.

<https://www.whatdoesthismean.org/devotions.html>

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**
 My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
 for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
 Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
 for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
 the troubles of my heart | have enlarged;*
 bring me out of | my distresses!
 Look on my affliction | and my pain,*
 and forgive | all my sins.
 Keep my soul, and de- | liver me;*
 let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

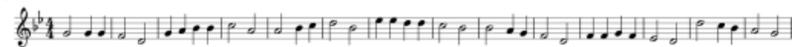
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Ephesians 5:1-2**
 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **TLH 258, LSB 609**
Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation **Matthaus Apelles von Lowenstern**



1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
 Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
 Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
 Lord God Almighty.

3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor
 faileth;
 Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin as-
 saileth;
 Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell pre-
 vaileth;
 Grant us Thy peace, Lord.

4. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuag-
 ing;
 Peace in Thy Church where brothers are en-
 gaging;
 Peace when the world its busy war is waging.
 Calm Thy foes' raging.

5. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driv-
 en;
 Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiv-
 en;
 Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven,
 Peace in Thy heaven.



Around the Word Devotions + March 20-26, 2022

“He Suffered the Opposition of Hell”

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE 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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Our Father, who art in
 heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily
 bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who
 trespass against us;
 and lead us not into
 temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and
 the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

Around the Word Example

Around the Word Devotions + the week of March 20-26, 2022

THEME OF THE WEEK: **He Suffered the Opposition of Hell**

The reality of the devil is inescapable during Lent. In the first two weeks of this season we have heard how he tempted our Lord in the wilderness and how one of his demons severely oppressed the daughter of a Canaanite woman. The Scriptures are clear: Satan exists, and he is a liar and murderer from the beginning. But take heart! "For us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected!" As strong as Satan may be, Jesus Christ is infinitely stronger. He has attacked and overcome the forces of hell. He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to His blessed kingdom. By the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of our testimony, the devil is conquered, and "the Kingdom ours remaineth."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 11:14-28: The Finger of God**

Jesus says that it was by the finger of God that He cast out demons, and thus the Kingdom of God had come upon the people. God's kingdom still comes to us today when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. By the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments we receive the work of Jesus not in disbelief or doubt like the crowds, but in true saving faith. *Father, let Your Kingdom come that we may believe in Your Son. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 43: The Vindication of God**

"Vindicate me, O God." With these words the psalmist is calling on God to judge His cause. That is a bold request for a poor, miserable sinner to make of the all-holy and righteous God. But the psalmist is confident to do so because God is the One in whom he takes refuge. We too may call upon God for vindication and defense in an ungodly, deceitful, and unjust world, for our Christ is our refuge and strength. For the sake of His sufferings and death, we are now justified, that is, counted as holy and righteous in His sight. *Vindicate us, O God, for Jesus' sake, that we may praise You, our salvation and our God. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 5:1-9: Children of Light**

Ephesians 4 concludes with God's forgiveness of us in Christ. Therefore, continues Paul, the one who has been forgiven should imitate God. This passage sets our Christian lives in the proper order. First, we become children of God and saints because Jesus loved us and died for us. For His sake we are forgiven. Then, we walk in love as children of light by avoiding sin and doing good works. Since we are no longer darkness but light in the Lord, let us live accordingly. And when we sin, let us flee to the forgiveness which is ours in Jesus. *Lord Jesus, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may do what is pleasing to You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **2 Samuel 22:1-7: My Lord and My God**

David was in great distress. To be sure, he faced many lethal foes throughout his life, but the fiercest enemy he encountered was the horrible terrors of conscience, which were to him as cords of Sheol and snares of death. In his distress he did not look to his own works to make satisfaction for his sins, but he called upon the Lord, who answered him from His temple. When your conscience assails you, do not look to yourself but to Jesus Christ alone, who has answered your cry with His own cry: "It is finished!" *O Lord, grant to us a good conscience for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 8:42-51: Children of God**

Even in earthly matters we know it's "like father, like son." How much more so is this true in spiritual matters! If your father is the devil, which is true of all unbelievers, then you will be like him in murder, deceit, blasphemy, and finally death. But through the waters of Holy Baptism you have become beloved children of God. Having Him as your Heavenly Father, therefore, you follow Him in loving Him, loving His Son Jesus also, hearing His Word, and finally possessing eternal life. Almighty God, we give You thanks for claiming us as Your beloved children in Holy Baptism. *Grant us to love You and receive Your Word as truth. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 2:1-7: The First Love**

The Ephesian church had patiently endured the trials that came from holding fast to pure doctrine and opposing false teachers. But they had abandoned their first love, which is the love of God in Christ Jesus for us. Therefore, in love Jesus rebuked them for this abandonment. He wanted them to repent and be restored. Our Lord rebukes us for our sins for the same reason. He is not willing to let us perish but repent, that having conquered, we might eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God with Him forever. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, that we might love others as You have first loved us. Amen.*

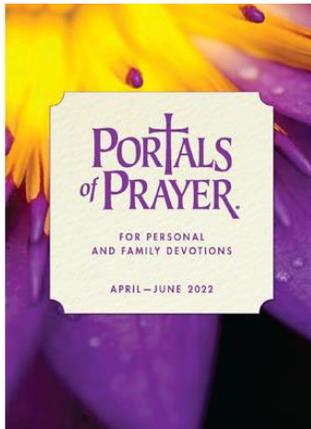
SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 86: You Have Helped and Comforted Me**

Why should we poor sinners cry out to God and expect Him to answer? David answers, "For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You." We pray to God with all boldness and confidence because He has revealed Himself to us as merciful and gracious in the Person of His Son, Jesus. He became Man for us men and for our salvation. He suffered and died to deliver our souls from the depths of Sheol. Therefore, we call upon Him in the day of trouble, trusting that He will answer us. *We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, for great is Your steadfast love toward us. Amen.*

Portals of Prayer

- Printed copies here or \$10/yr online web/app
- Simple and quick
- Add a page from the Catechism, individual prayers.
- <https://www1.cph.org/portals>



ORDER OF FAMILY WORSHIP

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader (*With all repeating each phrase*): Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A PSALM may be read by the leader or by the family in response.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

All: Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY



Read Matthew 26:17-30 ♦ Psalm 115

And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" *Matthew 26:22*

Not It!

The bell rang and recess started. "Tag, you're it." We have all played tag. How fun was that! Jesus was about to begin His journey to the cross. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus remembers us and blesses us through His body and blood, offered at His table for the forgiveness of our sins. On that same night, someone was going to betray Him. It's like Adam and Eve told Judas: "You're it." Not much fun in that.

You and I were "it"; we were the ones who betrayed Jesus. We have broken the Law of God and deserve the consequences. Our consciences do not rest at the thought of becoming Judas, the one who betrayed the innocent one.

The good news is that Jesus' body and blood are still being offered for us today. We are "not it" anymore because Jesus willingly took our place on the cross and paid the price for the consequences of our sins. We can now eat His body and drink His blood and receive forgiveness in remembrance of our guilt-free lives bought on Calvary.

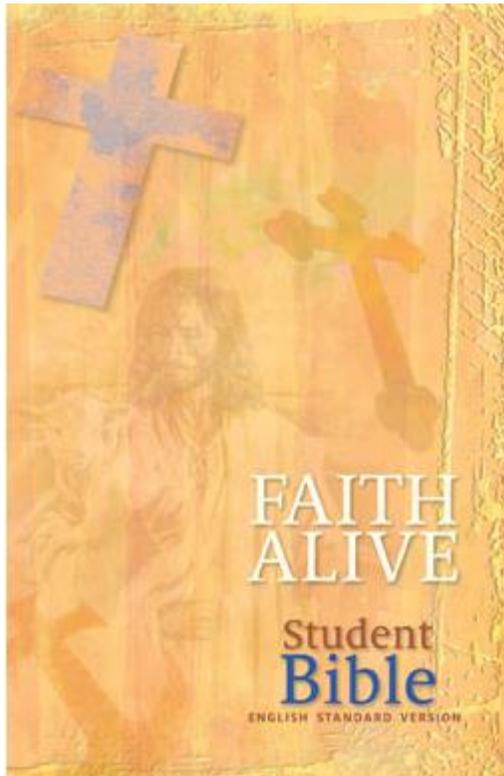
Lord, we praise You and thank You because You have remembered us. You sent Jesus, and He forgave our sins.

Because of Him, we are not "it" anymore.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ESV Student Bible

- Same ESV that we use throughout our church and school, but with some study concepts designed for children (but awesome for us as well!).
- Since day school children need this available daily at school, having one at home offers a familiar look and feel. Kids comfortable to show off what they have already learned!
- Features like charts, maps, articles applying the Bible



WELCOME TO THE FAITH ALIVE BIBLE

The great thing about this Bible—and any Bible!—is that you never outgrow it. In fact, it's what makes you grow spiritually. It's God's Word that the Holy Spirit uses to build you up in faith, to draw you closer to Jesus, your Savior. That's what St. Paul told Timothy and it means that the whole Bible is God speaking to you—for lots of important reasons.

The *Faith Alive Bible* is full of features designed to introduce you to the wonderful messages and promises in God's Word. **Check them out!**

— FEATURES —
YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Who, What, Where, When, and Why
Look for this box to get the facts on the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of God's Word and the story of your salvation from sin, death, and the devil. Find out about the real people, places, and life in Bible times.

Who? What? Where? When? and Why?

4U: (For You)
Every word in the Bible is loaded with meaning for everyone, but these 4U boxes will help you understand what certain passages mean FOR YOU personally. Check out the "4U" sections and discover God's Word FOR YOU!

God's Word for YOU!

Cross Connections:
As you read through your *Faith Alive Bible*, you will find many verses that remind you that Jesus' death on the cross connects you back to God—which gives you forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In many places, we've provided a brief note explaining a particular Cross Connection. Be sure to read the article that tells all about these Cross Connections!

ESV Student Bible

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GENESIS

STORIES IN GENESIS

God Creates the Heavens and Earth	Genesis 1–2
Adam and Eve and the Fall into Sin	Genesis 2–3
God Promises a Savior from Sin	Genesis 3
God Saves Noah from the Flood	Genesis 6–9
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11
Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12–25
Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25–36
Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37–50

Author—As with every book of the Bible, God is really the author. But God the Holy Spirit used human writers to record His words. Moses was the man inspired by God to write Genesis.

Date—Many thousands of years before time was carefully recorded, the flood occurred. Events before the time of Abraham (2166 BC) cannot be dated.

Places—Genesis 1–11 happens in Ur, modern-day Iraq. Much of the next part of Genesis (12–36) takes place in the land called Canaan or the Promised Land. It is known today as Israel and Palestine. Other locations mentioned in the rest of Genesis include Egypt and Mount Moriah, which might be located in the modern city of Jerusalem.

People—There are many important people mentioned in Genesis. We meet Adam and Eve, Noah and his family, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Joseph and his brothers, including Judah.

God's Love—God created people to be His friends and the universe to be a wonderful home for us. Even before He made people, He knew that we would fall into sin and that it would cost His Son's life to save us. But He made us anyway and gave the promise of the Savior already to the very first people.

God's Special Messages—Genesis tells how everything began. God created everything; He continues to rule over all He has made. Because our first parents brought sin into the world, every human since desperately needs the forgiveness God alone provides.

God creates the universe and people. People sin, and God punishes them with a great flood. God speaks to Abraham and gives him and his family special promises.

TAU CROSS

	C 2091 BC	2026 BC	1876 BC	1446 BC
CREATION	CALL OF ABRAHAM	ISAAC MARRIES REBEKAH	JACOB GOES TO EGYPT	EXODUS FROM EGYPT

4U

GENESIS 2:7, 22

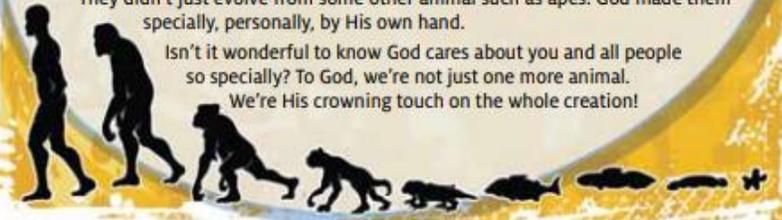
What about Evolution?

Evolution is a term often used for a theory that all forms of life developed, or evolved, from lower forms. Many Christians would like to think that God created all things, as the Bible says, but that He used evolution. Fact is, however, evolution just doesn't fit with the Bible. Look back at Genesis 1. Notice that the Bible says God did His creating in six regular days, because each day had an evening and a morning (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). Notice, too, that one kind of plant or animal didn't become a different kind; they each reproduced "their own kinds" (Genesis 1:11–12, 21, 24–25). Something else interesting: according to evolution, the sun would have to exist long before plants, because plants need sunlight to grow, but God made plants on the third day and the sun on the next (Genesis 1:11, 16). Most important, see the care God put into making Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:7, 22).

They didn't just evolve from some other animal such as apes. God made them specially, personally, by His own hand.

Isn't it wonderful to know God cares about you and all people so specially? To God, we're not just one more animal.

We're His crowning touch on the whole creation!



every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam¹ there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made² into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."³

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And

the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Fall

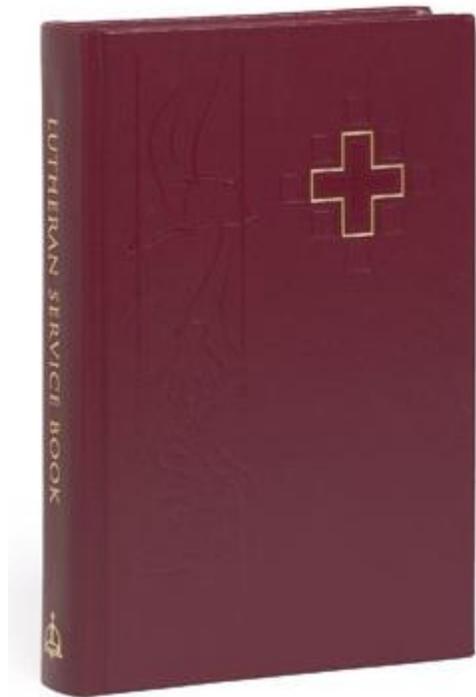
3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You⁴ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, ⁵ she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he

¹Or the man ²Hebrew built ³The Hebrew words for woman (ishshah) and man (ish) sound alike ⁴In Hebrew you is plural in verses 1–5 ⁵Or to give insight

Hymnal - Daily Prayer Devotional

- Templates in the hymnal for time of day. See page 294-298, and Lectionaries 299-304, Prayers 305-318.
- Also can leverage hymnals if we cannot attend church in-person and must live-stream



Hymnal - Daily Prayer example



DAILY PRAYER

For Individuals and Families

These brief services are intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings.

When more than one person is present, the versicles and responses may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

For the readings, several verses have been recommended for each particular time of day. These may be used on a rotating basis. The value in using these few texts lies in the opportunity to learn them well. For those desiring a more complete selection of readings, daily lectionaries, such as the one found on pages 299–304, may be followed. Readings from the Small Catechism (pages 321–330) may also be incorporated into the services.

In the prayers “for others and ourselves,” the following suggestions may be used to establish a pattern of daily and weekly prayer.

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

Monday: 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: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: 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: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, 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: 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: 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.

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298 • DAILY PRAYER

CLOSE OF THE DAY

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.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,
Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1–2

An appointed reading or one of the following is read: Matthew 11:28–30; Micah 7:18–20; Matthew 18:15–35; Matthew 25:1–13; Luke 11:1–13; Luke 12:13–34; Romans 8:31–39; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; Revelation 21:22–22:5.

The Apostles’ Creed is confessed.

**Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.**

Luke 2:29–32

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:
Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. (447)
Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (424)

Small Catechism

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.



DAILY LECTIONARY

Following historic practice, this lectionary presents a continuous reading through the books of the Bible, often associating certain books with particular seasons of the Church Year. The goal is not to read through the entire Bible each year. Rather, two readings of 15–25 verses each are provided for each day—one from the Old Testament, the other from the New Testament. Under this plan, nearly all of the New Testament and approximately one-third of the Old Testament are read each year. Please note the following:

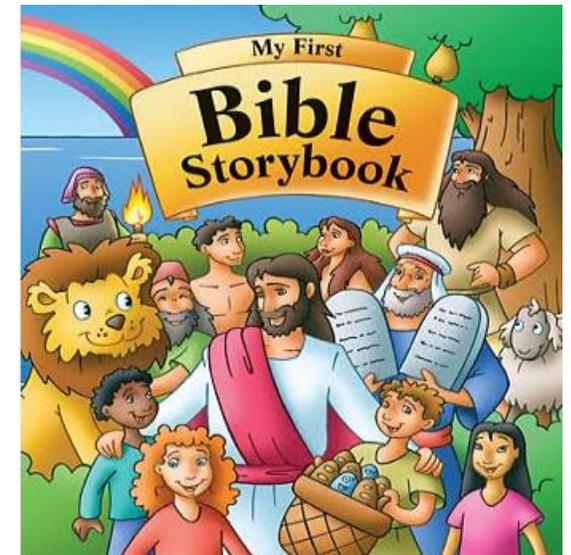
- The lectionary begins with Ash Wednesday. During the seasons of Lent and Easter—the movable seasons in the Church Year—the Church Year calendar is followed.
- Following Holy Trinity Sunday, the calendar year is followed. The calendar readings are continued until the beginning of Lent in the following year.
- Occasionally a third, optional reading is listed in italic type. This reading covers materials that would otherwise be omitted from the daily readings. Sometimes it provides parallel readings, for example, from the minor prophets.
- A chart for daily psalm readings has been provided on page 304.

The Time of Easter					
Lenten Season					
Ash Wed.	Gen. 1:1–19 Mark 1:1–13	M	Gen. 18:1–15 <i>Gen. 18:16–20:18</i>	Lent 4	Gen. 41:28–57 Mark 11:20–33
Th	Gen. 1:20–2:3 Mark 1:14–28	T	Mark 6:14–34 Mark 21:1–21	M	Gen. 42:1–34, 38 Mark 12:1–12
F	Gen. 2:4–25 Mark 1:29–45	W	Mark 6:35–56 Mark 22:1–19	T	Gen. 43:1–28 Mark 12:13–27
S	Gen. 3:1–24 Mark 2:1–17	Th	Mark 7:1–23 Mark 24:1–31	W	Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34 Mark 12:28–44
Lent 1	Gen. 4:1–26 Mark 2:18–28	F	Mark 7:24–37 Gen. 24:32–52, 61–67 <i>Gen. 25:1–26:35</i>	Th	Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28 Mark 13:1–23
M	Gen. 6:1–7:5 Mark 3:1–19	S	Mark 8:1–21 Gen. 27:1–29 Mark 8:22–38	F	Gen. 47:1–31 <i>Gen. 48:1–49:28</i>
T	Gen. 7:11–8:12 Mark 3:20–35	Lent 3	Gen. 27:30–45; 28:10–22	S	Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26 Mark 14:1–11
W	Gen. 8:13–9:17 <i>Gen. 9:18–11:26</i>	M	Mark 9:1–13 Gen. 29:1–30 <i>Gen. 29:31–34:31</i>	Lent 5	Ex. 1:1–22 Mark 14:12–31
Th	Gen. 11:27–12:20 Mark 4:21–41	T	Mark 9:14–32 Gen. 35:1–29	M	Ex. 2:1–22 Mark 14:32–52
F	Gen. 13:1–18 <i>Gen. 14:1–24</i>	W	Mark 9:33–50 Gen. 37:1–36	T	Ex. 2:23–3:22 Mark 14:53–72
S	Mark 5:1–20 Gen. 15:1–21 Mark 5:21–43	Th	Mark 10:1–12 Gen. 39:1–23	W	Ex. 4:1–18 Mark 15:1–15
Lent 2	Gen. 16:1–9, 15–17; 22 Mark 6:1–13	Th	Mark 10:13–31 Gen. 40:1–23	Th	Ex. 4:19–31 Mark 15:16–32
		F	Mark 10:32–52 Gen. 41:1–27	F	Ex. 5:1–6:1 Mark 15:33–47
		S	Mark 11:1–19	S	Ex. 7:1–25 Mark 16:1–20

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My First Bible Storybook – Very young children

- *My First Bible Storybook* brings 72 of the best-loved Bible stories to life
- For children as young as two years
- Stays close and faithful to the biblical text



The Old Testament

The Story of Creation	7	The Ten Commandments	130
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The Rainbow	44	Gideon's Three Hl	
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God Chooses Abraham	55	Samuel, the Boy V	
A Wife for Isaac	61	Listened to God	
Jacob and Esau	65	David and Goliath	
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Jacob Meets Esau	74	Solomon, the Wis	
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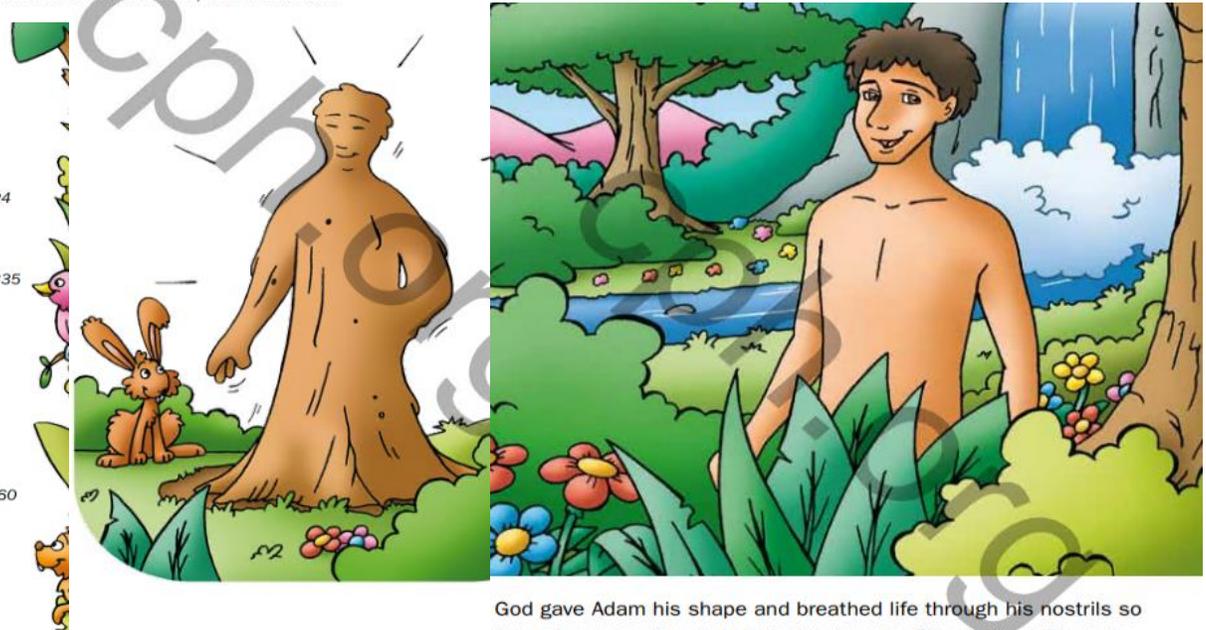
The New Testament

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Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem	233	Lazarus, Wake Up!	318
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Adam and Eve

Genesis 2

On that same day God said, "Now I will create people. I will make them in My image. I will give them a conscience so they can think, know, and love Me and each other. I will make them masters of everything I have made so they can take care of it." Then God took dust from the dry land and He formed Adam, the first man.



God gave Adam his shape and breathed life through his nostrils so Adam became alive and started to breathe like all living things do. Adam opened his eyes and found himself in a wonderful garden, called Eden, which God had created for him.

Little Visits with Jesus – Very young children

Each "little visit" includes:

- A Bible verse
- A story, a life-related devotion
- Ways to involve children in the story
- A prayer starter or suggestion

Add a hymn for the season to round it out!

Repeat it several times when you run out of pages

Suggestions for Use

1. While older children can benefit from these devotions, they are intended for use with young children. Use this book once your child is old enough to express feelings and thoughts in even a few words. We began developing these devotions when our son was less than a year old. At the time, he probably didn't benefit from the content, but he did learn that we talk to Jesus every day. That's important for a person of any age.
2. Try to set aside one specific time each day for "Jesus time"—bedtime, before breakfast, after mid-morning snacks, etc. These very brief devotions will fit into almost any schedule.
3. Twenty devotions are provided for each month—approximately five per week. This allows you the freedom to extend a devotion into a second day, to create your own based on an important family event, or to consider Sunday worship at church as that day's "Jesus time." Also, because children mature rapidly at this age, repeating a devotion a month later will bring different responses and invite greater insights.
4. When possible, personalize the devotions as you use them. For example, substitute the name of your child for the name of the child in the devotion.
5. Whenever a devotion calls for responses, use whatever response your child offers to start a conversation, to extend your child's learning, or to clarify a meaning or feeling.
6. Scripture readings are listed at the top of the page along with a pertinent excerpt. Whenever possible, read the selection from the Bible that belongs to your child. Or, as this book does, you might use Today's English Version (the *Good News Bible*) because of its simple language.
7. The devotions assume active adult participation along with your child's. When there are questions, talk about your responses as well as your child's. When an activity is suggested, participate with your child. In doing so, you, too, will grow in faith.

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All Gone	A Thank-You Day	
Magic Carpets	A Mud-Cake Party	
Worried?	"When Will I Read?"	
"I'm So Tired!"	A Sit-Down Summer	
Snack on a Stick	A Special Reminder	
Joe and His Coat	Playing Statues	
A Ducky Day!	Twinkling Christmas Lights	
Alone in a Crowd?	Flying High	
Underground Food	\$\$\$\$\$\$	
Time for Bed	Listen to Love	
Round and Round	Water, Water Everywhere	
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Map Fun	Make a "Good Book"	
Grown-up Jobs	A Smelly Hike	
Why Does the Sun Shine?	Fix-It Time	
A Good Kind of Tired	Out for Breakfast	
Half and Half	Will You Die?	
A Special Friend	Amen, Amen	
July	137	Home Sweet Home
Moving Around	Smile Time	
My Home	Writing a Book	
A Good Game?	An Ice Day	
It's Always Hot	Thinking of You	
Keeping Cool	Box City	
Summer Sillyies	A Liquid Lunch	

JANUARY

He went out, carrying His cross.
John 19:17–18



A Cross Search

"That must be a Bible," said Alex, pointing to a book on the table.

"How do you know?" Grandmother asked.

"It has a cross on it," Alex answered. "That's what the Bible is all about: Jesus died on a cross."

"And look what I always wear," Grandmother said. "Your grandpa gave me this necklace with a cross many years ago. I've never taken it off."

"Never?" Alex asked.

"Never," she answered.

"Come now, let's see how many more crosses we can find."

Alex and his grandmother walked around the house. They found one cross with two circles on it in his parents' room.

"That was on your parents' wedding cake," Grandmother said.

Alex even found a cross outside the front door. "That shows everybody that we love Jesus," said Alex.

Alex and his grandmother found four crosses at their house. How many crosses can you find at your house? Ask someone to help you look.



Dear Jesus,

Help me always remember what the cross means. Amen.

Loved
by children for more
than 25 years!

Little Visits with JESUS



DR. MARY MANZ SIMON