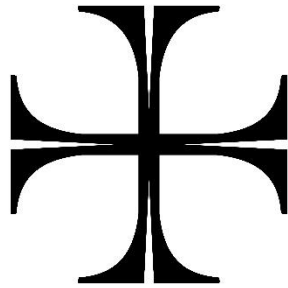


IN THE WORD



A resource for families and individuals as they worship the Lord.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity you are God.

— Psalm 90:1,2 —

Brothers and sisters, we live in interesting times. Fear, anxiety, stress, and tension exist in society, and more than likely, the home. The kids are home from school for at the very least a few weeks. Perhaps you and/or your spouse have been asked to work from home. Or, perhaps the company or business for whom you work has been forced to shut their doors for the indefinite future. Scary, stressful times, indeed.

But the Lord continues to protect, preserve, to provide for people on earth. He still sends rain to water the crops. He keeps the earth on its axis and in its orbit around the sun. And your Fourth Petition prayers—“Give us this day our daily bread”—continues to be answered. Perhaps it has not been answered in the ways to which you are accustomed, but he provides for you and your loved ones in body and life nonetheless.

He also continues to provide for us spiritually. Even if we cannot gather to worship together, God’s Word is eternal and cannot be chained. God will always work through his Word.

It’s our encouragement to you, dear friends, to take this time of unrest and irregularity to perhaps establish (or re-establish!) a daily devotional life for you and your family. For thousands of years, Christians have “socially distanced” themselves...and not in a negative way. Christians throughout the ages have removed themselves from society— for a time—to focus and meditate

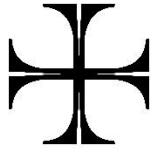
on the Word, for prayer, and to offer, through worship and song, praise and thanks to God for the many blessings with which he has blessed us.

Perhaps this pandemic is an opportunity for us to follow the example of our brothers and sisters who have went before us. This booklet contains resources to help you and your family to worship our Lord and grow in faith at home and is formatted to print on standard printer paper should you desire to print it at home. Use it in whatever manner you may like, but here are some suggestions for how to implement a daily gathering around our family altars:

- ◆ Establish a daily routine and structure. In a time when a sense of normalcy is in scarce supply, a routine will establish a peaceful and much-needed rhythm to life.
- ◆ Plan time for prayer and worship—both personally and corporately as a family or household. Sit down and actually use the set orders of service provided in this booklet. It may seem odd at first, but as you grow more and more familiar with it, it has the possibility to become something that is edifying and welcomed by all in the family.
- ◆ Seek out the Lord's Supper. Contact Pastor Sprunger to set up a time to meet individually or as a family.
- ◆ Pray. Pray corporately as a family or household. Pray privately. Seek out persons and opportunities for prayer.
- ◆ Take time to dig out your catechisms and/or hymnals and use them. What a better time than now to remind yourself of the mercies of God through doctrine and song.
- ◆ Trust in the Lord. Remind yourself and all in your family that God is still in control.

May God bless us and keep us, as he has promised to do. May this unplanned moment of family time renew the love and grace that God blesses through parents and children. And may your time in the Word strengthen and guide you every day.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Matthew Sprunger



MORNING MEDITATION

HYMN

A morning hymn or another hymn may be sung or said.

RESPONSES

In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;

in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

Psalm 5:3

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,

but because of your great mercy.

Daniel 9:18

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:17

Let me live that I may praise you,

and may your laws sustain me.

Psalm 119:175

PSALM

A psalm may be sung or said.

READING

A Scripture lesson or another devotional selection is read.

Silence for meditation and prayer may follow the reading.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

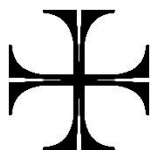
In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

May the grace of the Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil; may Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies; may Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love; and may his peace abound in our hearts.

Amen.



MIDDAY MEDITATION

HYMN

A hymn may be sung or said.

RESPONSES

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:7

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Jude 2

“Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the LORD. “Peace to this house.”

Isaiah 57:19; Luke 10:5

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1 Peter 5:14

The LORD gives strength to his people;

the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 29:11

READING

A Scripture lesson or another devotional selection is read.

Silence for meditation and prayer may follow the reading.

MIDDAY PRAYER

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your tender mercies' sake.

Amen.

OR

God of mercy, this midday moment of rest is your welcome gift. Bless the work we have begun, make good its defects, and let us finish it in a way that pleases you. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

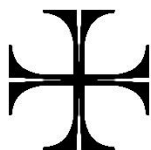
Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

The Lord be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Blessing, honor, thanksgiving, and praise, more than we can utter or understand, be to you, O holy and glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all mankind, and all creatures, for ever and ever.

Amen.



EVENING MEDITATION

HYMN

An evening hymn or another hymn may be sung or said.

RESPONSES

Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.

Luke 24:29

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

Your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you always.

Isaiah 58:10,11

Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more;

the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

Isaiah 60:20

On no day will the gates of the Holy City ever be shut,

for there will be no night there.

Revelation 21:25

PSALM

A psalm may be sung or said.

READING

A Scripture lesson or another devotional selection is read.

Silence for meditation and prayer may follow the reading.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

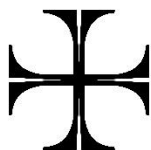
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (+), and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.



PRAYER RESOURCES

Sometimes, for as much as we desire to pray, we may not know exactly what to pray for. Here are some ideas to help you in your prayer life.

- ◆ Give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior from sin.
- ◆ Give thanks that God forgives all sins, graciously and mercifully.
- ◆ Thank God for his divine care and protection at all times.
- ◆ Pray about what is on your mind – take your fears, your anxiety, your cares, and put them in God’s hands.
- ◆ Pray for everyone who is impacted by this pandemic – the sick, those who are caring for the sick, those who are working to stop this disease and prevent further spread. Pray for those who may have lost their jobs or are facing uncertain futures at this time.
- ◆ Pray for yourself and those closest to you.
- ◆ Pray for your community.
- ◆ Pray for your country.
- ◆ Pray for our world.
- ◆ Pray that God graciously continues to work through his eternal Word, just as he has promised he will, and that he leads people to know their Savior and to place their trust and hope in him at all times.