

A Prayer for the Morning

I call upon Your name, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.

I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of your God.

You shall sanctify the day of rest.

You shall honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, manservant,
maidservant, animals, or anything that is his.

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 You 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.

One-Year Bible Reading Plan 2025-2026

30-Nov	Gen 1-3	10-Jan	Lev 26-27	20-Feb	Judg 19-21
1-Dec	Gen 4-6	11-Jan	Num 1-2	21-Feb	Ruth 1-4
2-Dec	Gen 7-9	12-Jan	Num 3-4	22-Feb	1 Sam 1-2
3-Dec	Gen 10-12	13-Jan	Num 5-6	23-Feb	1 Sam 3-7
4-Dec	Gen 13-17	14-Jan	Num 7	24-Feb	1 Sam 8-10
5-Dec	Gen 18-20	15-Jan	Num 8-10	25-Feb	1 Sam 11-13
6-Dec	Gen 21-23	16-Jan	Num 11-13	26-Feb	1 Sam 14-16
7-Dec	Gen 24-25	17-Jan	Num 14-15	27-Feb	1 Sam 17-18
8-Dec	Gen 26-27	18-Jan	Num 16-18	28-Feb	1 Sam 19-21
9-Dec	Gen 28-29	19-Jan	Num 19-21	1-Mar	1 Sam 22-24
10-Dec	Gen 30-31	20-Jan	Num 22-24	2-Mar	1 Sam 25-28
11-Dec	Gen 32-34	21-Jan	Num 25-26	3-Mar	1 Sam 29-31
12-Dec	Gen 35-36	22-Jan	Num 27-29	4-Mar	2 Sam 1-3
13-Dec	Gen 37-39	23-Jan	Num 30-31	5-Mar	2 Sam 4-7
14-Dec	Gen 40-41	24-Jan	Num 32-33	6-Mar	2 Sam 8-11
15-Dec	Gen 42-44	25-Jan	Num 34-36	7-Mar	2 Sam 12-14
16-Dec	Gen 45-47	26-Jan	Deut 1-2	8-Mar	2 Sam 15-17
17-Dec	Gen 48-50	27-Jan	Deut 3-5	9-Mar	2 Sam 18-19
18-Dec	Ex 1-4	28-Jan	Deut 6-8	10-Mar	2 Sam 20-22
19-Dec	Ex 5-7	29-Jan	Deut 9-11	11-Mar	2 Sam 23-24
20-Dec	Ex 8-10	30-Jan	Deut 12-15	12-Mar	1 Kg 1-2
21-Dec	Ex 11-13	31-Jan	Deut 16-19	13-Mar	1 Kg 3-4
22-Dec	Ex 14-16	1-Feb	Deut 20-22	14-Mar	1 Kg 5-7
23-Dec	Ex 17-20	2-Feb	Deut 23-26	15-Mar	1 Kg 8-9
24-Dec	Ex 21-23	3-Feb	Deut 27-28	16-Mar	1 Kg 10-11
25-Dec	Ex 24-26	4-Feb	Deut 29-31	17-Mar	1 Kg 12-14
26-Dec	Ex 27-28	5-Feb	Deut 32-34	18-Mar	1 Kg 15-16
27-Dec	Ex 29-30	6-Feb	Josh 1-4	19-Mar	1 Kg 17-19
28-Dec	Ex 31-33	7-Feb	Josh 5-7	20-Mar	1 Kg 20-22
29-Dec	Ex 34-35	8-Feb	Josh 8-10	21-Mar	2 Kg 1-3
30-Dec	Ex 36-38	9-Feb	Josh 11-13	22-Mar	2 Kg 4-5
31-Dec	Ex 39-40	10-Feb	Josh 14-15	23-Mar	2 Kg 6-8
1-Jan	Lev 1-4	11-Feb	Josh 16-18	24-Mar	2 Kg 9-11
2-Jan	Lev 5-7	12-Feb	Josh 19-21	25-Mar	2 Kg 12-14
3-Jan	Lev 8-10	13-Feb	Josh 22-24	26-Mar	2 Kg 15-17
4-Jan	Lev 11-12	14-Feb	Judg 1-3	27-Mar	2 Kg 18-19
5-Jan	Lev 13-14	15-Feb	Judg 4-6	28-Mar	2 Kg 20-23
6-Jan	Lev 15-17	16-Feb	Judg 7-9	29-Mar	2 Kg 24-25
7-Jan	Lev 18-20	17-Feb	Judg 10-12	30-Mar	1 Chr 1-2
8-Jan	Lev 21-23	18-Feb	Judg 13-15	31-Mar	1 Chr 3-5
9-Jan	Lev 24-25	19-Feb	Judg 16-18	1-Apr	1 Chr 6

One-Year Bible Reading Plan 2025-2026

2-Apr	1 Chr 7-8	13-May	Ps 10-17	23-Jun	Eccles 7-12
3-Apr	1 Chr 9-11	14-May	Ps 18-20	24-Jun	Song 1-8
4-Apr	1 Chr 12-14	15-May	Ps 21-25	25-Jun	Isa 1-2
5-Apr	1 Chr 15-17	16-May	Ps 26-31	26-Jun	Isa 3-6
6-Apr	1 Chr 18-21	17-May	Ps 32-35	27-Jun	Isa 7-10
7-Apr	1 Chr 22-24	18-May	Ps 36-39	28-Jun	Isa 11-14
8-Apr	1 Chr 25-27	19-May	Ps 40-44	29-Jun	Isa 15-19
9-Apr	1 Chr 28-29	20-May	Ps 45-50	30-Jun	Isa 20-24
10-Apr	2 Chr 1-5	21-May	Ps 51-56	1-Jul	Isa 25-29
11-Apr	2 Chr 6-9	22-May	Ps 57-62	2-Jul	Isa 30-33
12-Apr	2 Chr 10-14	23-May	Ps 63-68	3-Jul	Isa 34-37
13-Apr	2 Chr 15-19	24-May	Ps 69-72	4-Jul	Isa 38-41
14-Apr	2 Chr 20-21	25-May	Ps 73-76	5-Jul	Isa 42-44
15-Apr	2 Chr 22-25	26-May	Ps 77-78	6-Jul	Isa 45-48
16-Apr	2 Chr 26-29	27-May	Ps 79-83	7-Jul	Isa 49-53
17-Apr	2 Chr 30-32	28-May	Ps 84-88	8-Jul	Isa 54-59
18-Apr	2 Chr 33-36	29-May	Ps 89-91	9-Jul	Isa 60-66
19-Apr	Ezra 1-2	30-May	Ps 92-100	10-Jul	Jer 1-2
20-Apr	Ezra 3-5	31-May	Ps 101-103	11-Jul	Jer 3-5
21-Apr	Ezra 6-8	1-Jun	Ps 104-105	12-Jul	Jer 6-8
22-Apr	Ezra 9-10	2-Jun	Ps 106-107	13-Jul	Jer 9-11
23-Apr	Neh 1-4	3-Jun	Ps 108-112	14-Jul	Jer 12-15
24-Apr	Neh 5-7	4-Jun	Ps 113-118	15-Jul	Jer 16-19
25-Apr	Neh 8-10	5-Jun	Ps 119:1-72	16-Jul	Jer 20-23
26-Apr	Neh 11-13	6-Jun	Ps 119:73-176	17-Jul	Jer 24-26
27-Apr	Esther 1-4	7-Jun	Ps 120-129	18-Jul	Jer 27-30
28-Apr	Esther 5-10	8-Jun	Ps 130-136	19-Jul	Jer 31-32
29-Apr	Job 1-4	9-Jun	Ps 137-143	20-Jul	Jer 33-36
30-Apr	Job 5-7	10-Jun	Ps 144-150	21-Jul	Jer 37-40
1-May	Job 8-10	11-Jun	Prov 1-3	22-Jul	Jer 41-44
2-May	Job 11-14	12-Jun	Prov 4:1-7:5	23-Jul	Jer 45-48
3-May	Job 15-17	13-Jun	Prov 7:6-9:18	24-Jul	Jer 49-50
4-May	Job 18-20	14-Jun	Prov 10-12	25-Jul	Jer 51-52
5-May	Job 21-23	15-Jun	Prov 13-15	26-Jul	Lam 1-3
6-May	Job 24-28	16-Jun	Prov 16-18	27-Jul	Lam 4-5
7-May	Job 29-31	17-Jun	Prov 19-21	28-Jul	Ezek 1-5
8-May	Job 32-34	18-Jun	Prov 22-24	29-Jul	Ezek 6-10
9-May	Job 35-37	19-Jun	Prov 25-27	30-Jul	Ezek 11-13
10-May	Job 38-39	20-Jun	Prov 28-31	31-Jul	Ezek 14-16
11-May	Job 40-42	21-Jun	Eccles 1-2	1-Aug	Ezek 17-19
12-May	Ps 1-9	22-Jun	Eccles 3-6	2-Aug	Ezek 20-21

One-Year Bible Reading Plan 2025-2026

3-Aug Ezek 22–23	13-Sep Mark 7–8	24-Oct Rom 4–6
4-Aug Ezek 24–27	14-Sep Mark 9–10	25-Oct Rom 7–9
5-Aug Ezek 28–30	15-Sep Mark 11–12	26-Oct Rom 10–12
6-Aug Ezek 31–33	16-Sep Mark 13–14	27-Oct Rom 13–16
7-Aug Ezek 34–36	17-Sep Mark 15–16	28-Oct 1 Cor 1–3
8-Aug Ezek 37–39	18-Sep Luke 1	29-Oct 1 Cor 4–7
9-Aug Ezek 40–41	19-Sep Luke 2–3	30-Oct 1 Cor 8–10
10-Aug Ezek 42–45	20-Sep Luke 4–5	31-Oct 1 Cor 11–13
11-Aug Ezek 46–48	21-Sep Luke 6–7	1-Nov 1 Cor 14–16
12-Aug Dan 1–3	22-Sep Luke 8–9	2-Nov 2 Cor 1–3
13-Aug Dan 4–6	23-Sep Luke 10–11	3-Nov 2 Cor 4–7
14-Aug Dan 7–9	24-Sep Luke 12–13	4-Nov 2 Cor 8–13
15-Aug Dan 10–12	25-Sep Luke 14–15	5-Nov Gal 1–3
16-Aug Hos 1–7	26-Sep Luke 16–17	6-Nov Gal 4–6
17-Aug Hos 8–14	27-Sep Luke 18–19	7-Nov Eph 1–4
18-Aug Joel 1–3	28-Sep Luke 20–21	8-Nov Eph 5–6
19-Aug Amos 1–5	29-Sep Luke 22	9-Nov Phil 1–4
20-Aug Am 6–9, Obad	30-Sep Luke 23–24	10-Nov Col 1–4
21-Aug Jonah 1–4	1-Oct John 1–3	11-Nov 1 Thess 1–5
22-Aug Micah 1–7	2-Oct John 4–5	12-Nov 2 Thess 1–3
23-Aug Nah 1–Hab 3	3-Oct John 6	13-Nov 1 Tim 1–6
24-Aug Zeph 1–Hag 2	4-Oct John 7–8	14-Nov 2 Tim 1–4
25-Aug Zech 1–5	5-Oct John 9–10	15-Nov Titus 1–3, Phil
26-Aug Zech 6–10	6-Oct John 11–12	16-Nov Heb 1–6
27-Aug Zech 11–14	7-Oct John 13–14	17-Nov Heb 7–9
28-Aug Mal 1–4	8-Oct John 15–17	18-Nov Heb 10–11
29-Aug Matt 1–5	9-Oct John 18–19	19-Nov Heb 12–13
30-Aug Matt 6–8	10-Oct John 20–21	20-Nov James 1–5
31-Aug Matt 9–10	11-Oct Acts 1–2	21-Nov 1 Pet 1–5
1-Sep Matt 11–12	12-Oct Acts 3–4	22-Nov 2 Pet 1–3
2-Sep Matt 13–14	13-Oct Acts 5–7	23-Nov 1 John 1–5
3-Sep Matt 15–16	14-Oct Acts 8–9	24-Nov 2 & 3 John, Jude
4-Sep Matt 17–19	15-Oct Acts 10–11	25-Nov Rev 1–6
5-Sep Matt 20–21	16-Oct Acts 12–13	26-Nov Rev 7–12
6-Sep Matt 22–23	17-Oct Acts 14–15	27-Nov Rev 13–17
7-Sep Matt 24–25	18-Oct Acts 16–18	28-Nov Rev 18–22
8-Sep Matt 26	19-Oct Acts 19–20	
9-Sep Matt 27–28	20-Oct Acts 21–22	
10-Sep Mark 1–2	21-Oct Acts 23–25	
11-Sep Mark 3–4	22-Oct Acts 26–28	
12-Sep Mark 5–6	23-Oct Rom 1–3	

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

HOLY BAPTISM

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 — BAPTISM: FIRST

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and connected to God's Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Our Lord Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go into all the world, teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

WEEK OF DECEMBER 7 — BAPTISM: SECOND

What does Baptism give or profit?

It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promise of God declare.

Which are these words and promise of God?

Our Lord Christ says in the last chapter of Mark: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

WEEK OF DECEMBER 14 — BAPTISM: THIRD, PART 1

How can water do such great things?

Certainly water does not do it, but the word of God that is with and in the water, and faith that trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a water of life, rich in grace, and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 21 — BAPTISM: THIRD, PART 2

As St. Paul says to Titus in chapter three: “Through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified and made heirs of eternal life according to hope. This is most certainly true.”

WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 — BAPTISM: FOURTH, PART 1

What does such baptizing with water mean?

It means that the Old Adam in us, with all sins and evil desires, should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die; and that a New Man, in turn, should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

WEEK OF JANUARY 4 — BAPTISM: FOURTH, PART 2

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes to the Romans in chapter six: “We were buried with Christ through Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we, too, should walk in newness of life.”

CONFESSION

WEEK OF JANUARY 11 — CONFESSION, PART 1

Confession consists of two parts. First, that a person confesses his sins. Second, that a person receives absolution or forgiveness from the confessor, as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that his sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

WEEK OF JANUARY 18 — CONFESSION, PART 2

Which sins should a person confess?

Before God, we should plead guilty of all sins, including the ones we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer. But before the confessor we should only confess those sins that we know and feel in our hearts.

WEEK OF JANUARY 25 — CONFESSION, PART 3

Which are these?

Consider your station according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, or servant? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you hurt anyone with words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent or careless, caused any harm?

THE TABLE OF DUTIES

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1 — TABLE OF DUTIES, PART 1

BISHOPS, PASTORS AND PREACHERS

A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence; not a novice; one who holds fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict (1 Tim. 3[:2-4, 6a; Titus 1:9]).

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8 — TABLE OF DUTIES, PART 2

SECULAR AUTHORITIES

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil (Rom. 13[:1-4]).

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15 — TABLE OF DUTIES, PART 3

HUSBANDS

Husbands dwell with your wives with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Pet. 3[:7]). And do not be bitter toward them (Col. 3[:19]).

WIVES

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror (1 Pet. [3:6; Eph. 5:22]).

PARENTS

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, lest they become discouraged, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6[:4; Col. 3:21]).

CHILDREN

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth” (Eph. 6[:1-3]).

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 — TABLE OF DUTIES, PART 4

MANSERVANTS, MAIDSERVANTS, HIRED HANDS AND WORKERS, ETC.

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free [(Eph. 6:5-8)].

HOUSEHOLD MASTERS AND MISTRESSES

Masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him (Eph. 6[:9]).

WEEK OF MARCH 1 — TABLE OF DUTIES, PART 5

THE YOUTH IN GENERAL

Younger people, submit yourselves to your elders, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time (1 Pet. 5[:5-6]).

WIDOWS

Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives (1 Tim. 5[:5-6]).

ALL IN COMMON

All the commandments are summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Rom. 13[:9]). Persevere in prayer for all men (1 Tim. 2[:1]).

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

WEEK OF MARCH 8 — SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, PART 1

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

WEEK OF MARCH 15 — SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, PART 2

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

WEEK OF MARCH 22 — SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, PART 3

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

That is shown us by these words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through such words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

WEEK OF MARCH 29 — SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, PART 4

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly it is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say and declare: “forgiveness of sins.”

WEEK OF APRIL 5 — SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, PART 5

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward discipline. But he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But he who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared. For the words “for you” require nothing but believing hearts.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

WEEK OF APRIL 12 — THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

WEEK OF APRIL 19 — 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, practice witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

WEEK OF APRIL 26 — THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall sanctify the day of rest.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

WEEK OF MAY 3 — THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

You shall honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and rulers, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and respect them.

WEEK OF MAY 10 — THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every bodily need.

WEEK OF MAY 17 — THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each one love and honor his spouse.

WEEK OF MAY 24 — THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them with deceitful products or dealings, but help him to improve and protect his property and income.

WEEK OF MAY 31 — THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or harm his reputation, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

WEEK OF JUNE 7 — THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not cheat our neighbor out of his inheritance or house, or get it in a way that outwardly appears to be legal, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

WEEK OF JUNE 14 — THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his manservant, maidservant, or livestock, or anything that is his.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not estrange or drive away from our neighbor his wife, servants, or livestock, or persuade them to forsake him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

WEEK OF JUNE 21 — CLOSE, PART 1

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, who visits the sin of the fathers upon their children who hate Me, to the third and fourth generation. But to those who love Me and keep My commandments I do good for a thousand generations."

WEEK OF JUNE 28 — CLOSE, PART 2

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly act according to His commandments.

THE CREED

WEEK OF JULY 5 — THE CREED, FIRST ARTICLE, PART 1

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them.

WEEK OF JULY 12 — THE CREED, FIRST ARTICLE, PART 2

He also richly and daily provides me with clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and yard, wife and children, land, cattle, and all that I have—with all that I need to nourish and support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

WEEK OF JULY 19 — THE CREED, FIRST ARTICLE, PART 3

All this He does purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

WEEK OF JULY 26 — THE CREED, SECOND ARTICLE, PART 1

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 on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

WEEK OF AUGUST 2 — THE CREED, SECOND ARTICLE, PART 2

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

WEEK OF AUGUST 9— THE CREED, SECOND ARTICLE, PART 3

That I should be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns for all eternity. This is most certainly true.

WEEK OF AUGUST 16— THE CREED, THIRD ARTICLE, PART 1

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;

WEEK OF AUGUST 23— THE CREED, THIRD ARTICLE, PART 2

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

WEEK OF AUGUST 30— THE CREED, THIRD ARTICLE, PART 3

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers, and at the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6 — LORD'S PRAYER: OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in Heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words, God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13— LORD'S PRAYER: 1ST PETITION, 1

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20— LORD'S PRAYER: 1ST PETITION, 2

How is this done?

When the Word of God is purely and plainly taught, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27— LORD'S PRAYER: 2ND PETITION, 1

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4— LORD'S PRAYER: 2ND PETITION, 2

How is this done?

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.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 11— LORD’S PRAYER: 3RD PETITION, 1
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 18— LORD’S PRAYER: 3RD PETITION, 2

How is this done?

When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will that does not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come—namely, the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—but rather strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 25— LORD’S PRAYER: 4TH PETITION, 1

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God gives daily bread to all evil people, even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that He would allow us to recognize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1 — LORD’S PRAYER: 4TH PETITION, 2

What is meant by daily bread?

Everything that has to do with the nourishment and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothes, shoes, house, yard, land, livestock, money, property, a godly spouse, godly children, godly servants, godly and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8— LORD’S PRAYER: 5TH PETITION

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins and deny our prayer because of them, for we are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them; but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve only punishment. We, in turn, truly also wish to forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15— LORD’S PRAYER: 6TH PETITION

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

Certainly God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and although we are troubled with these things, that we would nevertheless overcome and triumph in the end.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22— LORD’S PRAYER: 7TH PETITION

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every sort of evil of body and soul, of property and honor; and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrows to Himself in heaven.

Amen.

What does this mean?

That I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen! Amen! That is, “Yes, yes, it shall be so!”

A Prayer for the Evening

I call upon Your name, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You. I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips, when I remember You upon my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. I will lie down in peace and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

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 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.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You 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.