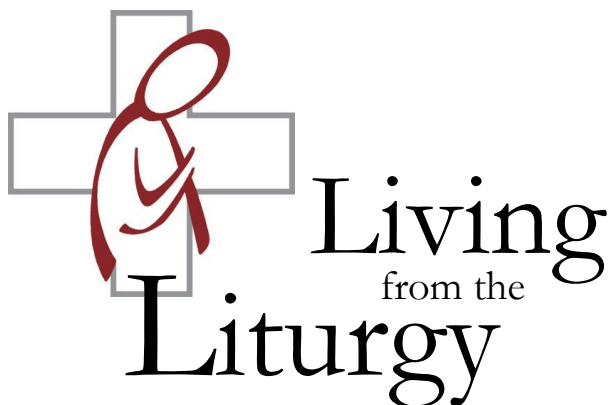




A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 20 – September 26, 2026

Though the Romans believed the cross to be the greatest symbol of shame and rejection, we Christians recognize the Holy Cross as the highest banner of love and conquest. By the cross, Christ showed His love for mankind, giving Himself over unto all suffering and death, that we might be redeemed according to His faithfulness.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the appointed verse and portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, Sept. 20	Psalm 46	Neh. 4:7-23	1 Tim 3:1-16
Monday, Sept. 21	Psalm 55:12-19	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16	1 Tim. 4:1-16
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Psalm 133	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Tim. 5:1-16
Wed., Sept. 23	Psalm 51:5-13	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
Thursday, Sept. 24	Psalm 123	Neh. 9:22-38	1 Tim 6:3-21
Friday, Sept. 25	Psalm 51:5-13	Mal. 1:1-14	Matt. 3:1-17
Saturday, Sept. 26	Psalm 16	Mal. 2:1-3:5	Matt. 4:1-11

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Theme: The Holy Cross is the sign and pledge of God's love for us.

Hymn: 430, “My Song Is Love Unknown”

Summary of Readings:

Numbers 21:4-9: Having been freed from Egypt, the people of Israel grumble against Moses, and so the Lord sends serpents to chastise them for their faithlessness. But God gives His people salvation from the serpents venom through a bronze serpent raised up upon a staff.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25: St. Paul extols the wisdom of God, which seems to be foolishness before the world.

John 12: 20-33: Christ speaks of the hour of His glorification, wherein He will be lifted up and draw all people unto Himself.

THE CATECHISM — THE 6TH COMMANDMENT

(Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.)

What is the Sixth Commandment? You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

Matthew 19:6: “They are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 40:1-11 (ESV)

Meditate on this Psalm every day when you pray, and use it as the starting place for your own prayer:

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! ⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. ⁶In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. ⁷Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: ⁸I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” ⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. ¹¹As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

LUTHER’S PRAYER ON PSALM 40¹:

Father of light, we praise You because You forgive iniquity and do not reward us according to our sins. What You promised to the fathers You have fulfilled in Your Son. As the east and the west can never come together, so remove our sins far from us, that they can be accounted to us no more, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

¹ Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH, 2007

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER – (From LSB page 294)

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

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT CHRIST:

Prayer Family: *Daryl & Sherri Smith* and their loved ones

Carole Barbour, friend of Will Pickering, who is being treated for stomach cancer

The Family of Joel Hadden, a fellow Lutheran traveling through Jackson, who has entered eternal rest

Natalie Rudsenske & Child, as her due date approaches

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.