

# FAMILY HOME DEVOTIONS

July 6-12, 2026



## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS**

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# Monday

## Psalm 119:1-40

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Aleph

- 119 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord!  
2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
3 who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!  
4 You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.  
5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!  
6 Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.  
7 I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous rules.  
8 I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me!

Beth

- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.  
10 With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!  
11 I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.  
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes!  
13 With my lips I declare  
all the rules of your mouth.  
14 In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.  
15 I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.  
16 I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

Gimel

- 17 Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.  
18 Open my eyes, that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.  
19 I am a sojourner on the earth;  
hide not your commandments from me!

## Joshua 24:1-31

The Covenant Renewal at Shechem

- 24 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. 4 And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. 6 "'Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 And when they cried to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time. 8 Then I

- 20 My soul is consumed with longing  
for your rules at all times.  
21 You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,  
who wander from your commandments.  
22 Take away from me scorn and contempt,  
for I have kept your testimonies.  
23 Even though princes sit plotting against me,  
your servant will meditate on your statutes.  
24 Your testimonies are my delight;  
they are my counselors.  
Daleth  
25 My soul clings to the dust;  
give me life according to your word!  
26 When I told of my ways, you answered me;  
teach me your statutes!  
27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.  
28 My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!  
29 Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!  
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your rules before me.  
31 I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;  
let me not be put to shame!  
32 I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!  
He  
33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;  
and I will keep it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.  
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.  
36 Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
and not to selfish gain!  
37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
and give me life in your ways.  
38 Confirm to your servant your promise,  
that you may be feared.  
39 Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
for your rules are good.  
40 Behold, I long for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life!

# July 6

brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. 12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

Choose Whom You Will Serve

14 "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." 21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." 22 Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 And the people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey." 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God." 28 So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

Joshua's Death and Burial

29 After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old. 30 And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-herah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

## Acts 13:1-12

Barnabas and Saul Sent Off

13 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

## Confession - Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

# Tuesday

## Psalm 119:41-88

Waw

41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,  
your salvation according to your promise;  
42 then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,  
for I trust in your word.  
43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
for my hope is in your rules.  
44 I will keep your law continually,  
forever and ever,  
45 and I shall walk in a wide place,  
for I have sought your precepts.  
46 I will also speak of your testimonies before kings  
and shall not be put to shame,  
47 for I find my delight in your commandments,  
which I love.  
48 I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I  
love,  
and I will meditate on your statutes.

Zayin

49 Remember your word to your servant,  
in which you have made me hope.  
50 This is my comfort in my affliction,  
that your promise gives me life.  
51 The insolent utterly deride me,  
but I do not turn away from your law.  
52 When I think of your rules from of old,  
I take comfort, O Lord.  
53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,  
who forsake your law.  
54 Your statutes have been my songs  
in the house of my sojourning.  
55 I remember your name in the night, O Lord,  
and keep your law.  
56 This blessing has fallen to me,  
that I have kept your precepts.

Heth

57 The Lord is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.  
58 I entreat your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.  
59 When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to your testimonies;  
60 I hasten and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.  
61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.  
62 At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your righteous rules.  
63 I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.  
64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;

teach me your statutes!

Teth

65 You have dealt well with your servant,  
O Lord, according to your word.  
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in your commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I keep your word.  
68 You are good and do good;  
teach me your statutes.  
69 The insolent smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;  
70 their heart is unfeeling like fat,  
but I delight in your law.  
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn your statutes.  
72 The law of your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Yodh

73 Your hands have made and fashioned me;  
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.  
74 Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,  
because I have hoped in your word.  
75 I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.  
76 Let your steadfast love comfort me  
according to your promise to your servant.  
77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;  
for your law is my delight.  
78 Let the insolent be put to shame,  
because they have wronged me with falsehood;  
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.  
79 Let those who fear you turn to me,  
that they may know your testimonies.  
80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes,  
that I may not be put to shame!

Kaph

81 My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word.  
82 My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"  
83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.  
84 How long must your servant endure?  
When will you judge those who persecute me?  
85 The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;  
they do not live according to your law.  
86 All your commandments are sure;  
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!  
87 They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.  
88 In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

## Judges 2:6-23

The Death of Joshua

6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. 7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. 9 And they buried him within the

# July 7

boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

## Israel's Unfaithfulness

11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. 14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress. The Lord Raises Up Judges

16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. 18 Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the Lord left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

## Acts 13:13-41

xxPaul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia

13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." 16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. 19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. 20 All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' 23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. 24 Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you."

34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David."

35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "You will not let your Holy One see corruption."

36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. 40 Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

41 "Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you."

## Confession - What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

# Wednesday

## Psalm 119:89-136

Lamedh

89 Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.  
91 By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.  
92 If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.  
93 I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.  
94 I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.  
95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your testimonies.  
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection,  
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Mem

97 Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.  
98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.  
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.  
100 I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.  
101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.  
102 I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.  
103 How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
104 Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

Nun

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous rules.  
107 I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O Lord, according to your word!  
108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord,  
and teach me your rules.  
109 I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.  
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.  
111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,  
for they are the joy of my heart.  
112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.

Samekh

113 I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.  
114 You are my hiding place and my shield;  
I hope in your word.  
115 Depart from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commandments of my God.  
116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!  
117 Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually!  
118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes,  
for their cunning is in vain.  
119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross,  
therefore I love your testimonies.  
120 My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgments.

Ayin

121 I have done what is just and right;  
do not leave me to my oppressors.  
122 Give your servant a pledge of good;  
let not the insolent oppress me.  
123 My eyes long for your salvation  
and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.  
124 Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,  
and teach me your statutes.  
125 I am your servant; give me understanding,  
that I may know your testimonies!  
126 It is time for the Lord to act,  
for your law has been broken.  
127 Therefore I love your commandments  
above gold, above fine gold.  
128 Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right;  
I hate every false way.

Pe

129 Your testimonies are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.  
130 The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.  
131 I open my mouth and pant,  
because I long for your commandments.  
132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is your way with those who love your name.  
133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise,  
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.  
134 Redeem me from man's oppression,  
that I may keep your precepts.  
135 Make your face shine upon your servant,  
and teach me your statutes.  
136 My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law.

# July 8

## Judges 3:7-31

Othniel

7 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth. 8 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. 9 But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. 11 So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Ehud

12 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord. 13 He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. 14 And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

15 Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. 16 And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. 17 And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. 18 And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. 19 But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. 20 And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. 21 And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. 22 And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. 23 Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

24 When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." 25 And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

26 Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. 27 When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader. 28 And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the Lord has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over. 29 And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. 30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

Shamgar

31 After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

## Acts 13:42-52

42 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. 43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. 46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

## Confession - Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22-23)

# Thursday

## Psalm 119:137-176

Tsadhe

- 137 Righteous are you, O Lord,  
and right are your rules.  
138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness  
and in all faithfulness.  
139 My zeal consumes me,  
because my foes forget your words.  
140 Your promise is well tried,  
and your servant loves it.  
141 I am small and despised,  
yet I do not forget your precepts.  
142 Your righteousness is righteous forever,  
and your law is true.  
143 Trouble and anguish have found me out,  
but your commandments are my delight.  
144 Your testimonies are righteous forever;  
give me understanding that I may live.

Qoph

- 145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!  
I will keep your statutes.  
146 I call to you; save me,  
that I may observe your testimonies.  
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I hope in your words.  
148 My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promise.  
149 Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;  
O Lord, according to your justice give me life.  
150 They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose;  
they are far from your law.  
151 But you are near, O Lord,  
and all your commandments are true.  
152 Long have I known from your testimonies  
that you have founded them forever.

Resh

- 153 Look on my affliction and deliver me,  
for I do not forget your law.  
154 Plead my cause and redeem me;  
give me life according to your promise!  
155 Salvation is far from the wicked,  
for they do not seek your statutes.  
156 Great is your mercy, O Lord;  
give me life according to your rules.

## Judges 4:1-24

Deborah and Barak

4 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. 2 And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,  
but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

158 I look at the faithless with disgust,  
because they do not keep your commands.

159 Consider how I love your precepts!

Give me life, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

160 The sum of your word is truth,  
and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Sin and Shin

161 Princes persecute me without cause,  
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word  
like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood,  
but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous rules.

165 Great peace have those who love your law;  
nothing can make them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord,  
and I do your commandments.

167 My soul keeps your testimonies;  
I love them exceedingly.

168 I keep your precepts and testimonies,  
for all my ways are before you.

Taw

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord;  
give me understanding according to your word!

170 Let my plea come before you;  
deliver me according to your word.

171 My lips will pour forth praise,  
for you teach me your statutes.

172 My tongue will sing of your word,  
for all your commandments are right.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord,  
and your law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live and praise you,  
and let your rules help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.

# July 9

summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?'" 8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh.

12 When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. 14 And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot. 16 And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

17 But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. 18 And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. 19 And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. 20 And he said to her, "Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'" 21 But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died. 22 And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

23 So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. 24 And the hand of the people of Israel pressed harder and harder against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

## Acts 14:1-18

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

14 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. 5 When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, 6 they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas at Lystra

8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, 10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. 11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, 15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." 18 Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

## Confession - What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

# Friday

## Psalm 120

Deliver Me, O Lord

A Song of Ascents.

120 In my distress I called to the Lord,  
and he answered me.

2 Deliver me, O Lord,  
from lying lips,  
from a deceitful tongue.

3 What shall be given to you,  
and what more shall be done to you,  
you deceitful tongue?

4 A warrior's sharp arrows,  
with glowing coals of the broom tree!

5 Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech,  
that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

6 Too long have I had my dwelling  
among those who hate peace.

7 I am for peace,  
but when I speak, they are for war!

## Judges 6:1-24

Midian Oppresses Israel

6 The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. 2 And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. 3 For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. 5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. 6 And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the Lord.

7 When the people of Israel cried out to the Lord on account of the Midianites, 8 the Lord sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. 9 And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 And I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.”

The Call of Gideon

11 Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” 13 And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” 14 And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” 15 And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” 16 And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” 17 And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. 22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.” 23 But the Lord said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, The Lord Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

# July 10

## **Acts 14:19-15:5**

### Paul Stoned at Lystra

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

### Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, 26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. 27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.

### The Jerusalem Council

15 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

## **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.

# Saturday

## Psalm 121

My Help Comes from the Lord

A Song of Ascents.

121 I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

8 The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

## Judges 6:25-40

25 That night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it 26 and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." 27 So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.

Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

28 When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built. 29 And they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And after they had searched and inquired, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the town said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it." 31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down." 32 Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, "Let Baal contend against him," because he broke down his altar.

33 Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. 34 But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. 35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

The Sign of the Fleece

36 Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, 37 behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." 38 And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. 39 Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." 40 And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

# July 11

## Acts 15:6-21

6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

12 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13 After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

16 "'After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
and I will restore it,

17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,  
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,  
says the Lord, who makes these things 18 known from of old.'

19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, 20 but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. 21 For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

## Sacrament of the Altar - 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."

# Sunday

## Psalm 65:1–13

O God of Our Salvation  
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.  
65 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed.  
2 O you who hear prayer,  
to you shall all flesh come.  
3 When iniquities prevail against me,  
you atone for our transgressions.  
4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
to dwell in your courts!  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
the holiness of your temple!  
5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas;  
6 the one who by his strength established the moun-  
tains,  
being girded with might;  
7 who stills the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples,

8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your  
signs.

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for  
joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;  
you provide their grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

10 You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

11 You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

## Isaiah 55:10–13

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
12 “For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the Lord,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

# July 12

## **Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23**

### The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

### The Parable of the Sower Explained

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

## **Christian Questions with Their Answers**

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament  
Christians may ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

2. How do you know this?

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Rom. 6:21, 23.

5. Do you hope to be saved?

Yes, that is my hope.

6. In whom then do you trust?

In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Who is Christ?

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. How many Gods are there?

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. Did the Father also die for you?

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. How do you know this?

From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

12. What are the words of institution?

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.”

## Christian Questions with Their Answers continued

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."

13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes, I believe it.

14. What convinces you to believe this?

The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Note: These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

