



DEVOTIONS AT HOME

A Tutorial

If you haven't been in the habit of daily devotions at home, there's no time like the present to begin! Devotions - whether with your family or by yourself - are a comforting routine when everything else is chaos, a routine that keeps you grounded in what the Word of God says, instead of the noise of the world around you. We've put together this tutorial to give you some ideas for your devotional life at home.

Lutheran Service Book

There is no greater devotional tool than the book we use every week at church. The *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal has everything you need. Page 294 is the beginning of the section for "Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families". This section has brief spoken liturgies for morning, noon, early evening, and close of the day. Each one has a similar format - opening versicles (short sentences with responses); an option for a hymn, canticle, or psalm; a reading from Scripture and sometimes the catechism; the Apostles' Creed or a canticle; and prayers.

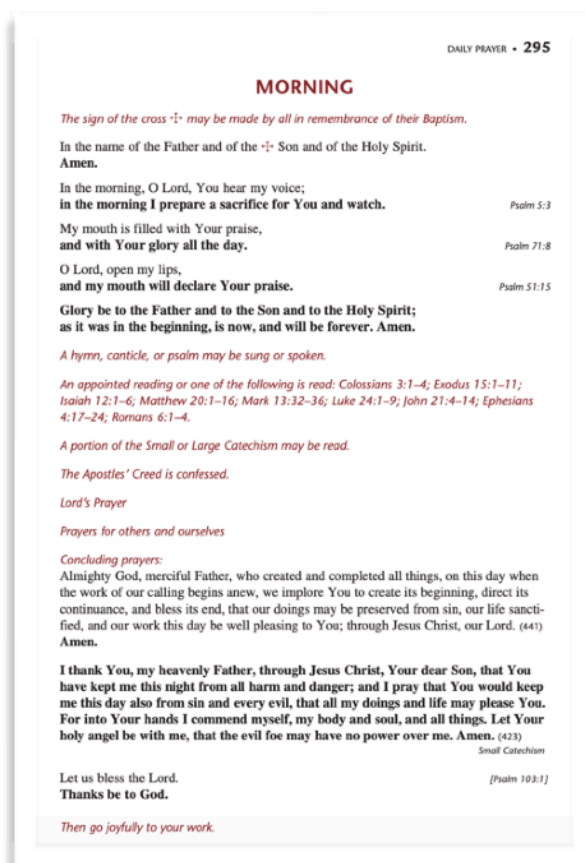
Once you select one of these liturgies, you'll need the "proprs" for the Scripture readings, catechism readings, the hymns or psalms, and the prayers. The hymnal provides that, too! On page 299, a daily lectionary (Scripture reading plan) is provided. Each day has a reading from both the Old and New Testaments that covers nearly all of the New and about 1/3 of the Old in the course of a year. You can read both, split them up to different times of the day, or just use one, as best fits your circumstance.

A table of psalms for each day is also provided on page 304.

When selecting hymns, you can simply sing your family's favorites, or participate with the church's song by singing the hymn of the day from the preceding Sunday, or the hymn of the month. You can sing a different hymn each day, or use one per week to study it more closely and maybe even commit it to memory. The Small Catechism is provided beginning on page 321.

Each liturgy specifies a time to pray "for others and ourselves". Pray for yourself, friends, family, and church family, and then end with the specific suggestions on page 294 for a pattern of daily and weekly prayer.

That's the basic template. Easy! If you want to add a bit extra, you can sing some of the parts of the liturgies - the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy) for noon prayer, the Phos Hilaron (Joyous Light of glory) for early evening prayer, and the Nunc Dimittis (Lord, now You let your servant go in peace) for prayer at the close of the day.



If you want to go even bigger, you can use the liturgies of the daily offices - Matins, Vespers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline. These are found on page 219 and following.

The Treasury of Daily Prayer

Another fantastic resource is *The Treasury of Daily Prayer*. This volume compiles all the propers for each day, plus the Daily Prayer liturgies and the daily offices, all of the Psalms, additional prayers, suggestions for readings from the Book of Concord, additional psalms, a hymn stanza, and writings from the church fathers. It's a one-stop shop for all your devotional needs.

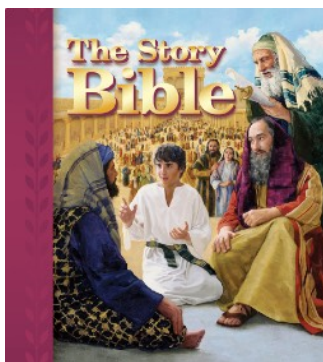
Additional Resources

The Lutheran Study Bible

If you don't already have a Bible at home, or are interested in an in-depth study Bible from a Lutheran perspective, check out *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions

Concordia is a newer edition of the Book of Concord. The *Treasury* lists additional optional readings from the Book of Concord, so if you want to dig deeper, you'll need this book or another edition of the Book of Concord. This contains the Large Catechism, which is another great devotional tool that further explains the six chief parts of the catechism.



The Story Bible

A great resource for families of small children is Concordia Publishing House's *The Story Bible*. This book has all the major Bible stories in slightly modified language paired with beautiful illustrations and suggested questions. You can use this as the Scripture reading for the day and work your way through the major themes of the Bible with your small children.

Zion Devotions

Pastor Hull is continuing to write daily devotions for us. There is also a brief liturgy at the beginning of each booklet, similar to the Daily Prayer liturgies in the hymnal. The

Scripture reading and meditation for each day could easily be used with any of the liturgies mentioned above. These devotional booklets will continue to be emailed out each week. If you would like a hard copy, contact the church office or one of our pastors.

Read the Psalms over Thirty Days

The Psalms - the church's first prayer and hymn book - are a source of great comfort. Here is a schedule to read them all in 30 days' time. You can also split them up between morning and evening.



| Day | Psalms | Day | Psalms | Day | Psalms |
|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|------------|
| 1 | 1-9 | 11 | 60-65 | 21 | 104-105 |
| 2 | 10-17 | 12 | 66-68 | 22 | 106-107 |
| 3 | 18-22 | 13 | 69-71 | 23 | 108-112 |
| 4 | 23-28 | 14 | 72-76 | 24 | 113-118 |
| 5 | 29-34 | 15 | 77-78 | 25 | 119:1-96 |
| 6 | 35-38 | 16 | 79-82 | 26 | 119:97-176 |
| 7 | 39-43 | 17 | 83-87 | 27 | 120-134 |
| 8 | 44-48 | 18 | 88-89 | 28 | 135-139 |
| 9 | 49-54 | 19 | 90-96 | 29 | 140-144 |
| 10 | 55-59 | 20 | 97-103 | 30 | 145-150 |

Where to Purchase

Concordia Publishing House sells all of these books. The *Lutheran Service Book* is currently on sale! We also have a limited number of each at the church for purchase, if you are unable to order online or by phone. We are also offering a hymnal library service so that you can borrow a hymnal from the church. If you'd like to borrow one, contact one of our pastors or the church office and we'll get one to you.

The Lutheran Study Bible: <https://www.cph.org/c-2885-the-lutheran-study-bible.aspx>

The Lutheran Service Book hymnal: <https://www.cph.org/c-2810-lutheran-service-book.aspx>

The Treasury of Daily Prayer: <https://www.cph.org/c-2863-treasury-of-daily-prayer.aspx>

Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (click "Other Formats" to view the other editions): <https://www.cph.org/p-11428-concordia-the-lutheran-confessions-a-readers-edition-of-the-book-of-concord-2nd-edition.aspx>

The Story Bible: <https://www.cph.org/p-18257-the-story-bible.aspx>

Order by phone: 1 (800) 325-3040

A downloadable copy of the Daily Prayer lectionaries is available here: <https://www.cph.org/images/topics/images/topicpages/bestill-2020/Daily%20Prayer%20and%20Hymns.pdf>