Daily Devotions for Home and Family

For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 22 through November 28

The Second Commandment

[57] For this reason, too, God has added a solemn threat to this commandment, "For the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" [Exodus 20:7]. This means that this sin shall not be pardoned for anyone or go unpunished. For just as He will not fail to avenge if anyone turns his heart from Him, so He will also not let His name be used to dress up a lie. [58] Now unfortunately, this sin is a common plague in all the world. There are so few people who do not use God's name for purposes of lying and all wickedness in contrast to those who trust in God alone with their heart.

[59] By nature we all have within us this beautiful virtue, that whoever has committed a wrong would like to cover up and adorn his disgrace, so that no one may see it or know it. No one is so bold as to boast to all the world of the wickedness he has done. All wish to act by stealth and without anyone being aware of what they do. So, if anyone is caught sinning, God's name is dragged into the affair and must make the wickedness look like godliness, and the shame like honor. [60] This is the common way of the world, which has covered all lands like a great flood. So we get what we seek and deserve as our reward: epidemics, wars, famines, raging fires, floods, wayward wives, children, servants, and all sorts of filth. Where else should so much misery come from? It is still a great mercy that the earth bears and supports us [Numbers 16:28–50].

[61] Therefore, above all things, our young people should have this Second Commandment earnestly pressed upon them [Deuteronomy 6:7]. They should be trained to hold this and the First Commandment in high regard. And whenever they sin, we must at once be after them with the rod [Proverbs 13:24]. We must hold the commandment before them, and constantly teach it, so that we bring them up not only with punishment, but also in reverence and fear of God [Ephesians 6:4].

[62] Now you understand what it means to take God's name in vain. In sum it means (a) to use His name simply for purposes of falsehood, (b) to assert in God's name something that is not true, or (c) to curse, swear, use spells, and, in short, to practice whatever wickedness one may.

[63] Besides this you must also know how to use God's name rightly. For when He says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain," He wants us to understand at the same time that His name is to be used properly. For His name has been revealed and given to us so that it may be of constant use and profit. [64] So it is natural to conclude that since this commandment forbids using the holy name for falsehood or wickedness, we are, on the other hand, commanded to use His name for truth and for all good, like when someone takes an oath truthfully when it is needed and it is demanded [Numbers 30:2]. This commandment also applies to right teaching and to calling on His name in trouble or praising and thanking Him in prosperity, and so on. All of this is summed up and commanded in Psalm 50:15, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." For all this is bringing God's name into the service of truth and using it in a blessed way. In this way His name is hallowed, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9]. ~ *LC I:57-64*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Psalm – 95:1–7a

The Catechism – *Confession & Office of the Keys*

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, November 22 – Revelation 19:1-21
Monday, November 23 – Revelation 20:1-15 *(Commemoration of Clement of Rome, Pastor)*
Tuesday, November 24 – Revelation 21:1-8
Wednesday, November 25 – Revelation 21:9-27
Thursday, November 26 – Revelation 22:1-21
Friday, November 27 – 1 Peter 1:1-12
Saturday, November 28 – 1 Peter 1:13-25

Meditation *(If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it)*

Prayers

Let us pray…Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us…behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Lindy Amibile; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; George Arrigo; Jim Baum; Jackie Blydenburgh; Eugene Bolmarcich; Barbara Brush; Roseann Carrano; Dean Clemente; John D'Angelo; Rose DeCurzio; Ed Doepp; Kim Dufrenoy; Tara Coppola; Bill East; Holly Erb; Jason Erb; Kristin Fletcher; Richard Frenz; The Family of Mary Fusi; John Geyer; Viola Grau; Harper Gwin; Denise Howard; Marilyn Jorg; Peter Lopacki; Don Mack; Sammy Malenczak; Katie Marghoob; Dorothy Mistler; Rudy & Julie Morgenfruh; Daniel, Sarah & Ruby Orama; Honey Pabst; Karen Paul; Joanne Roland; Alice Ryan; Diane Schortemeyer; Chuck & Judy Scott; Asa Shaw; Judy Smith; Gertrude Sutorius; Arlene Uhl; Ingrid Vessie; Elaine Whitehouse; Jack Whitehouse; Edward Zerbe

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) 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.

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

Hymn for the Week – *One Thing's Needful* *LSB #536, st. 5*

Therefore You alone, my Savior,
Shall be all in all to me;
Search my heart and my behavior,
Root out all hypocrisy.
Through all my life's pilgrimage and uphold me,
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✢ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C **Amen.**

Looking ahead for the First Sunday in Advent:

Isaiah 64:1-9 *1 Corinthians 1:3-9* *Mark 13:24-37*