Daily Devotions for Home and Family

For the Week of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15 through November 21

The Second Commandment

[49] You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

[50] The First Commandment has instructed the heart and taught the faith. This commandment now leads us forward and directs the mouth and tongue to God. For the first things that spring from the heart and show themselves are words [Matthew 12:34]. I have taught above how to answer the question "What does it mean to have a god?" Now you must simply learn to understand the meaning of this commandment and all the commandments, and to apply it to yourself.

[51] If someone now asks, "How do you understand the Second Commandment?" or "What is meant by taking God's name in vain, or misusing God's name?" answer briefly in this way: "It means misusing God's name when we call upon the Lord God—no matter how—in order to deceive or do wrong of any kind." Therefore, this commandment makes this point: God's name must not be appealed to falsely, or taken upon the lips, while the heart knows well enough—or should know—that the truth of the matter is different. This is what happens with people who take oaths in court, where one side lies against the other. [52] For God's name cannot be misused worse than for the support of falsehood and deceit. Let this remain the exact German and simplest meaning of this commandment.

[53] From this everyone can easily see when and in how many ways God's name is misused, although it is impossible to list all its misuses. But, to explain this in a few words, all misuse of the divine name happens first in worldly business and in matters that concern money, possessions, and honor. This applies publicly in court, in the market, or wherever else people make false oaths in God's name or pledge their souls in any matter. This is especially common in marriage affairs, where two go and secretly get engaged to one another, and afterward, break their engagement.

[54] But the greatest abuse occurs in spiritual matters. These have to do with the conscience, when false preachers rise up and offer their lying vanities as God's Word [Jonah 2:8].

[55] Look, all this is dressing up one's self with God's name, or making a pretty show, or claiming to be right. This is true whether it happens in common, worldly business or in higher, refined matters of faith and doctrine. Blasphemers also belong with the liars. I mean not just the most ordinary blasphemers, well known to everyone, who disgrace God's name without fear. (These are not for us to discipline, but for the hangman.) I also mean those who publicly disgrace the truth and God's Word and hand it over to the devil. There is now no need to speak about this further.

[56] Here, then, let us learn and take to heart the great importance of this commandment. Then, with all diligence, we may guard against and dread every misuse of the holy name as the greatest sin that can be committed outwardly. For to lie and to deceive is in itself a great sin. But such a sin gets even worse when we try to justify our lie and seek to confirm it by calling on God's name and using His name as a cloak for shame [1 Peter 2:16], so that from a single lie a double lie results—no, many lies.

~ LC I:49-56

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 – 90:1–12

The Catechism – *Confession & Office of the Keys*

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as if from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, November 15 – Matthew 26:57-75
Monday, November 16 – Matthew 27:1-10
Tuesday, November 17 – Matthew 27:11-32
Wednesday, November 18 – Matthew 27:33-56
Thursday, November 19 – Matthew 27:57-66 *(Commemoration of Elizabeth of Hungary)*
Friday, November 20 – Matthew 28:1-20
Saturday, November 21 – Revelation 18:1-24

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…Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same 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; 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; Elayne Treschl; 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 – *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near* *LSB #508, st. 2*

The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

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.**

† Look Ahead for Next Week:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *1 Corinthians 15:20-28* *Matthew 25:31-46*