



**Our**  
**EVERY DAY, EVERY WAY,**  
**Faith Practice**

Summer 2015—Luther's *Small Catechism*

**AUGUST 30, 2015**

**The Lord's Prayer—6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Petitions**

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK**— Daniel said to the king, “My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” —Daniel 6:22

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**—*To be used in a variety of ways over the course of the week—first thing in the morning; before you go to bed; as an opening or closing to household devotion time (see reverse); etc.*

**Heavenly Father, when we are tempted, when we are in danger, when we are in trouble, when we suffer, remind us to call out to you. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**A BLESSING TO SHARE**—*A blessing can be a powerful ritual that reminds us of God’s promises and presence, both through the words, as well as the touch that we share. This can be used as a “good-bye.” It could be used as a bed-time blessing. Be creative in the way you bless and are blessed by the people in your life.*

*As you mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, says,*

**“Remember that you are baptized, marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.”**

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**—Questions to ask as you read: This week’s readings all show God providing.

Some questions to ask as you read: What does God provide? How do the people of God respond?

Day 1	Daniel 6:1-22	Daniel in the Lion’s Den
Day 2	Genesis 3:1-7	Eve is Tempted
Day 3	Genesis 22:1-14	Abraham’s Confidence in God to Provide
Day 4	Jonah 2:1-10	Jonah Prays to God from the Belly of the Whale
Day 5	Matthew 4:1-11	The Temptation of Jesus

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**—*Try using either these suggested topics for conversation. Or, try checking in with “Highs & Lows” (What was the best/worst part of your day?) or “God Moments” (Where do you think you saw God’s love active and present today?). **The main point is to be on the look-out for opportunities to move your household’s from the “surface” to the “soul.”***

- Where our translation in the **CATECHISM RITUAL** uses “our human tendency for sinning,” Martin Luther used the words “our flesh.” How can you describe what this looks like for us human beings, especially when it comes to temptation?
- Have you ever been in a flood or any other disaster or tragedy? What was it like?

Interview someone who has been through a life-changing disaster, tragedy, or event. What would you want to know about their experience? About their faith?

- Talk about a time you fell to temptation and later came to regret what you had done.

**DEVOTIONS**—*One way of thinking about devotions is as a continuation of our community's worship, or at least as a connection with it. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions:*

- **Gathering Prayer**—Try using a lit candle; the PRAYER FOR THE WEEK from the front; or a suggestion from the RITUAL & TRADITION below.
- **Caring Conversation**—Either a daily check-in, or extended conversation from above.
- **Daily Bible Reading**—What do you want to remember from this reading? Households with small children might simply review the basics of the story read from an age-appropriate Bible.
- **Closing Ritual**—Some way of signaling the end: a BLESSING TO SHARE from the front; the Lord's Prayer; or a song, either sung or recorded. If you use a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

*Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with YOUR household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? **Even if you don't have children in your household, or if you live alone, be creative and flexible with how you practice your devotions.***

**SERVICE**—*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

It can be *tempting* to think that your individual role and part in our congregation is insignificant, small, unneeded, or doesn't matter. But if you were to look to see how many people are needed on a Sunday morning to make worship happen well, you might also see that EVERYONE has a role to play. Resist the temptation this fall to miss worship. Find one way that you can help on a regular basis on Sunday morning. What kind of training might you need to have that happen well? Can you make this a regular part of your service?

**CATECHISM RITUAL:**

L=Leader R=Response

L What is the 6th Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

R **Lead us not into temptation.**

L What does this mean?

R **God is not in the business of tempting anyone. So what we ask in this prayer is that God would protect us and hold us up so that the evil, the world around us, and our human tendency for sinning may not trick us into believing false things about God; despair when we are tempted or fall; or other such great and shameful sins. And, we pray that even though we may be tempted, we may finally prevail and win over the devil, the world around us, and our human tendency to sin.**

L What is the 7th Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

R **Deliver us from evil.**

L What does this mean?

R **We ask in this prayer, as a summary of the whole thing, that our Father deliver us from all kinds of evil: that which might happen to our bodies or torment our souls or destroy our property or reputation, and more. And, we pray, when our final hour comes, our Father will grant us a blessed end and take us from this broken world to be with him in glory forever.**