

## HOME DEVOTIONS – HOW TO USE THE HYMNAL

I encourage you to develop a discipline of daily home devotions, in addition to the worship services here at Immanuel. Just as an athlete must follow a disciplined program of conditioning/training, so the Christian benefits greatly from a daily hearing of God's Word. This repetition is especially beneficial for young children.

These instructions will make use of the *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB) which is the hymnal we use at Immanuel. If you do not have one at home, or need additional hymnals so that each person in your family can participate, please take one from the table set up in the narthex.

### Season of the Church Year ~ The Season of Lent

March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Lent 4). Knowing where we are at in the Church's Calendar will tell us what hymns, psalms and scripture readings to use for our home devotions.

### Daily Prayer

The first thing is to find the best time of the day for your home devotions. Then, use the Daily Prayer *For Individuals and Families* (LSB 294-298). These provide a simple structure that you can follow for your devotions. Notice there is a Daily Prayer for: Morning, Noon, Early Evening, Close of the Day. Additional copies of these services are also available on the table in the narthex.

### Propers & Rubrics

The "Propers" are the things that are printed in black (leader speaks the regular font, those gathered speak the bold font). The "Rubrics" are those things printed in red (instructions for Daily Prayer).

### Hymn, Canticle, or Psalm – Which one do I use?

Use either a hymn OR a canticle OR a psalm. If you like to sing, you may sing a hymn or a canticle or a psalm. If you prefer to speak, you might use the psalm. Suggestions below.

Suggested HYMNS or CANTICLES for this week include: LSB 571, LSB 420, LSB 422.

### PSALMS for Season of Lent (from chart, LSB 304)

- The psalm you use will depend on what time of day you have your devotions.
- The psalms can be found in the front of LSB (LSB 1-150)
  - Sunday: Morning (Psalm 84), Evening (Psalm 42 or 32)
  - Monday: Morning (Psalm 119:73-80), Evening (Psalm 121 or 6)
  - Tuesday: Morning (Psalm 34), Evening (Psalm 25 or 91)
  - Wednesday: Morning (Psalm 5), Evening (Psalm 27 or 51)
  - Thursday: Morning (Psalm 38), Evening (Psalm 126 or 102)
  - Friday: Morning (Psalm 22), Evening (Psalm 107 or 130)
  - Saturday: Morning (Psalm 43), Evening (Psalm 31 or 143)

### Scripture Readings – Which one(s) do I use?

The Daily Lectionary (LSB 299-304) is a schedule of readings which includes two readings for each day.

This Sunday (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) is the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Lent 4), so the readings for this Sunday are Genesis 41:28-57 and Mark 11:20-33. You can see the rest of the readings for the week there at LSB 299.

### Small Catechism – What portion do I use?

The Small Catechism can be found at LSB 321. Simply select a portion to use. You may want to begin with the Ten Commandments and work your way through the whole catechism. If you have children with their own catechisms, make use of them.

Apostles' Creed & Lord's Prayer can be found on the inside back cover of LSB.

### Prayers

Ask for family prayer requests. If you are uncomfortable with what words to pray, make use of the prayers in LSB (305-318). Also take note of the framework for prayer emphasis for each day of the week at LSB 294.

### Concluding thoughts & Additional Resources

Do not be overwhelmed with what I have presented. If you want to simplify these suggestions, you might use only one psalm, one scripture reading, a small portion of the catechism. If you have questions, please contact me, as I'd love to help.

- Here is an instructional video for using Daily Prayer in LSB that might be helpful.
- <https://education.cph.org/teaching-the-faith-at-home/devotions-at-home-part-2/>

There are other resources available to you here on the table in the narthex. Take what you can use. You might also consider purchasing other resources to use for your home devotions.

- “A Year in the New Testament: Meditations for Each Day of the Church Year” (available at cph.org for \$30.99).
- “A Year in the Old Testament: Meditations for Each Day of the Church Year” (available from cph.org for \$30.99).
- “Treasury of Daily Prayer” (available from cph.org for \$50.99).

*“We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” (Meaning of the First Commandment, Small Catechism).*

Peace be with you.

*Pastor Porath*