

LIVING A LIFE OF FORGIVENESS Pt. 1

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“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

(Ephesians 4:32–5:2)

“...forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these be clothed with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

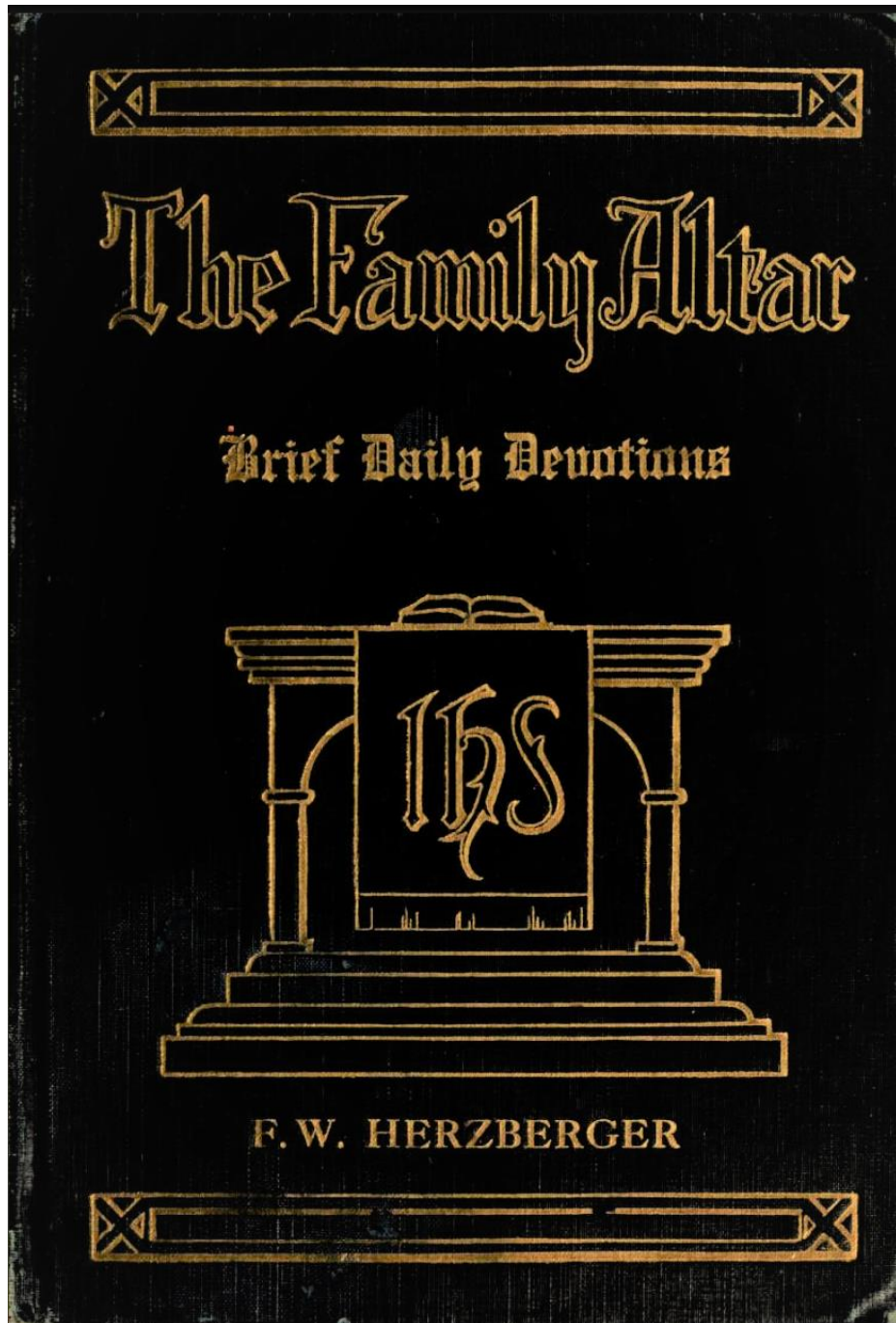
(Colossians 3:12–14)

“Above all, continue to eagerly love one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

(1 Pet. 4:8)



Family Altar



Concordia Publishing House 1922

Daily devotions for the whole year

Prayers for the home

Altar

Proclaim & Pray

Confess our sins & Confess our Savior

“Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.” (Genesis 12:7–8, ESV)

Commenting on Genesis 12:7-8, Luther states,



Now for the first time he builds an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. That is, he appoints a definite place where the church should come together to hear the Word of God, offer prayers, praise God, and bring sacrifices to God; for this is what it means to build an altar. Abraham builds an altar; that is, he himself is the bishop or priest, and he himself teaches the others and gives them instruction about the true worship of God. This must be the one purpose both of altars and of temples, that those who gather there hear the Word of God, pray, give thanks to God, praise God, and carry out those forms of worship which He has commanded. (LW 2:284)

..... in order to perform his duty as bishop; that is, he instructs his church concerning the will of God, admonishes them to lead a holy life, strengthens them in their faith, fortifies their hope of future blessing, and prays with them. The Hebrew verb includes all these things. (LW 2:286)

“When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.” (Genesis 25:27, ESV)

Commenting on Genesis 25:27, Luther states,



Thus one speaks of the tent of Moses and means a sacred tent. We call them churches and schools. But at that time there was no difference between the sacred tents and those occupied by households. Abraham had in his tent a house of God and a church, just as today any godly and pious head of a household instructs his children and domestics in godliness. Therefore such a house is actually a school and church, and the head of the household is a bishop and priest in his house. (LW 4:384)



“Little Church”

“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.” (Ephesians 5:23, ESV)

**“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”
(Ephesians 5:32, ESV)**

In his commentary on Ephesians, John Chrysostom (4th cent.) states,

For if thou shalt make her “holy and without blemish,” everything else will follow. Seek the things which are of God, and those which are of man will follow readily enough. Govern thy wife, and thus will the whole house be in harmony. Hear what Paul saith. “And if they would learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home.” (1 Cor. 14:35.) If we thus regulate our own houses, we shall be also fit for the management of the Church. For indeed a house is a little Church. Thus it is possible for us by becoming good husbands and wives, to surpass all others. (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers Vol. 13, p. 148)

The Estate of Marriage (1522)



But the greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worth while, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve him. In all the world this is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls. Now since we are all duty bound to suffer death, if need be, that we might bring a single soul to God, you can see how rich the estate of marriage is in good works. God has entrusted to its bosom souls begotten of its own body, on whom it can lavish all manner of Christian works. Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. Whoever teaches the gospel to another is truly his apostle and bishop. Mitre and staff and great estates indeed produce idols, but teaching the gospel produces apostles and bishops. See therefore how good and great is God’s work and ordinance! (LW 45:46)

Three Books for the Home

- 1. Hymn Book**
- 2. Small Catechism**
- 3. Prayer Book**

Wittenberg Hymnal (1524)

In the preface, Luther writes,



That it is good and God pleasing to sing hymns is, I think, known to every Christian; for everyone is aware not only of the example of the prophets and kings in the Old Testament who praised God with song and sound, with poetry and psaltery, but also of the common and ancient custom of the Christian church to sing Psalms. St. Paul himself instituted this in 1 Corinthians 14 [:15] and exhorted the Colossians [3:16] to sing spiritual songs and Psalms heartily unto the Lord so that God's Word and Christian teaching might be instilled and implanted in many ways. (LW 53:313)

The Small Catechism (1529)



As the head of the household (**hausvater**) should teach Christian doctrine to the entire family...

NOTE: **Hausvater** – the spiritual head of the household

The Large Catechism (1529)



...we must have the young learn the parts which belong to the Catechism or instruction for children well and fluently and diligently exercise themselves in them and keep them occupied with them. Therefore it is the duty of every **hausvater** to question and examine his children and servants at least once a week and to ascertain what they know of it, or are learning, and, if they do not know it, to keep them faithfully at it.

A Simple Way to Pray (1535)

Commenting on the Fifth Commandment, Luther writes,



...I pray the dear Father to lead us to an understanding of this his sacred commandment and to help us keep it and live in accordance with it. May he preserve us from the murderer who is the master of every form of murder and violence. May he grant us his grace that we and all others may treat each other in kindly, gentle, charitable ways, forgiving one another from the heart, bearing each other's faults and shortcomings in a Christian and brotherly manner, and thus living together in true peace and concord, as the commandment teaches and requires us to do. (LW 43:206)

Psalm 110 (1539)



For although we are all priests, this does not mean that all of us can preach, teach, and rule. Certain ones of the multitude must be selected and separated for such an office...

... But after we have become Christians through this Priest and His priestly office, incorporated in Him by Baptism through faith, then each one, according to his calling and position, obtains the right and the power of teaching and confessing before others this Word which we have obtained from Him. Even though not everybody has the public office and calling, every Christian has the right and the duty to teach, instruct, admonish, comfort, and rebuke his neighbor with the Word of God at every opportunity and whenever necessary. For example, father and mother should do this for their children and household; a brother, neighbor, citizen, or peasant for the other. Certainly one Christian may instruct and admonish another ignorant or weak Christian concerning the Ten Commandments, the Creed, or the Lord's Prayer. And he who receives such instruction is also under obligation to accept it as God's Word and publicly to confess it. (LW 13:332-333)



Priesthood of the Baptized ≠ Priest in the Preaching Office

Family Altar ≠ Altar of the Church

“Little Church” of the household ≠ Church as the House of God

Gathering in the home

The daily practice of liturgical living in the home

Confessing our Sins & Confessing our Savior

Asking for Forgiveness & Speaking Forgiveness

God's Word, singing, and praying



Gathering in the church

The weekly participation in the liturgical life of the church

Confessing our Sins & Confessing our Savior

Asking for Forgiveness & Speaking Forgiveness

God's Word, singing, praying, and the Lord's Supper

Opening Hymn- "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" 633

Stanza 2

Gives His sacred blood for wine

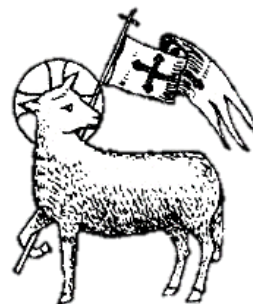
Gives His body for the feast

Stanza 7

Easter triumph, Easter joy!

This alone can sin destroy;

From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free



Divine Service Setting Three

Confession and Absolution

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

who made heaven and earth

Psalm 124:8

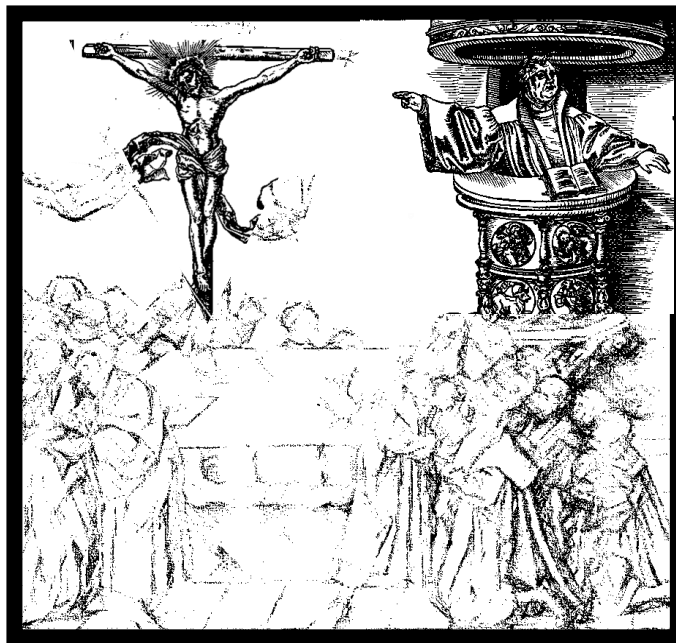
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SERVICE OF THE WORD



Old Testament

“But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” (Isaiah 43:24–25, ESV)

Psalm

“If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.” (Psalm 130:3–4, ESV)

Epistle

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13, ESV)

Gospel

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;” (Luke 6:36–37, ESV)


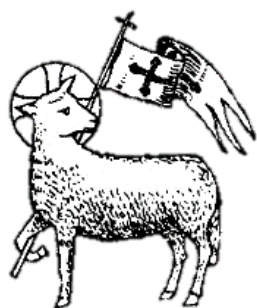
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Connection between praying and forgiving

Asking for forgiveness and speaking forgiveness



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

The Benediction (Numbers 6:22-27)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Closing Hymn- “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” 922

Stanza 1

Go, My children, with My blessing

Stanza 2

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Stanza 3

... Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

