

# Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for June, 2023

The purpose of the Chapel Devotion Project is to encourage individuals and families to make prayer and devotional time in God's Word a regular part of their daily lives. We believe many good things will come from your intentional study and reflection of God's Word:

- Your relationship with God and with others will grow and be strengthened.
- Study of the Scripture and hymns for the upcoming weekend will enhance your worship.
- You will come to the Lord daily in prayer, bringing your praise, thanks, and requests to Him.

## *How to Use These Devotions*

Each week contains five pages of devotional material. How you choose to use the material is up to you. You could study one reading or one page a day. You might read several portions every other day. You may use the short order of worship provided below. Use the material in the way that best fits you and your family.

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **DEVOTION and REFLECTION**

### **PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER**

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.

or

#### **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

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.

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.  
All: Amen.

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Devotions and supporting material written by Pastor Ted Laesch and Mary Laesch.



# Walking Together in the Word

May 29–June 3, 2023

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 4.*

**Holy Trinity**

The Gospel: Matthew 28:16–20

## The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## Devotion on the Gospel

Power. Everyone seems to want it. You see people striving for power every day. And power in the hands of the right person or group can be a good thing, using that power for the betterment of others. But power in the hands of the wrong person or group can be disastrous, using that power to control, to abuse, or to destroy others.

But who really has the power? We find out in this text: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” Jesus has the power. Jesus has power over nature—calming storms, walking on water, healing disease. Jesus has power over demons—driving them away with just a word. Jesus even has power over death itself—rising from the dead on Easter morning. What power!

His is power we do not have to fear. His is power tempered with love. His is power that empowers! With His almighty power, Jesus turns to you and me and He gives us a command. “Go and make disciples of all nations.” He empowers you and me and then gives a beautiful promise: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus is the One with all authority. Jesus is the One with all power. And as great as His power and authority are, still greater is His love for His people. And it is His great love for us that empowers—that moves us to go and share the Good News with others.

Surely I am with you always,  
to the very end of the age

Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*Verse to Remember:*  
Matthew 28:19–20

*What comfort does it give you, knowing that Jesus has power greater than any person or group?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*The creation account tells us about our God: He is Creator of all things; He is powerful, orderly, loving, gracious. His creation is good, because He is good.*

*We often speak of God the Father as Creator, but all three persons of the Trinity were present at and involved in the creation of all things: See Genesis 1:2 and John 1:1-3.*

## The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. 6 And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. 14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. 20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there as morning—the sixth day. 2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

## The Epistle: Acts 2:14a, 22–36

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

## The Psalm: Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

5 You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*When God poured out His Holy Spirit onto the disciples at Pentecost, they witnessed clearly and persuasively that Jesus is the Messiah.*

*What difference do you see between the disciples immediately following Jesus’ resurrection (see John 20:19) and the disciples in this passage?*

*What special role has God given to humankind? See also Genesis 1:26–28.*

Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*This song speaks of the need to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the world.*

*What drives you to share the Good News of Jesus with others? What empowers you to go and share?*

The Hymn: Facing a Task Unfinished *Getty*

Facing a task unfinished  
That drives us to our knees  
A need that, undiminished  
Rebukes our slothful ease  
We, who rejoice to know Thee  
Renew before Thy throne  
The solemn pledge we owe Thee  
To go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee  
Hold their unhindered sway  
Where forces that defied Thee  
Defy Thee still today  
With none to heed their crying  
For life, and love, and light  
Unnumbered souls are dying  
And pass into the night

*Chorus:* We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ the Lord

We bear the torch that flaming  
Fell from the hands of those  
Who gave their lives proclaiming  
That Jesus died and rose  
Ours is the same commission  
The same glad message ours  
Fired by the same ambition  
To Thee we yield our powers

*Chorus*

O Father who sustained them  
O Spirit who inspired  
Savior, whose love constrained them  
To toil with zeal untired  
From cowardice defend us  
From lethargy awake!  
Forth on Thine errands send us  
To labor for Thy sake

No other

name

has power

to save

but

Jesus

Christ

the Lord

# Faith + Life Connections

Jesus commanded His disciples to go and tell others about Him. We have the same command: "Go and tell." And Jesus gives us the same promise: "I am with you always." Who can you go and tell this week?

*Matthew 28:16-20*

Take a walk outside and look around. How many kinds of trees and plants do you see? What about birds, insects, and animals? God created an amazing, beautiful world for us to enjoy, and He made us caretakers of His earth. What can you do this week to care for God's creation?

*Genesis 1:1-2:4a*

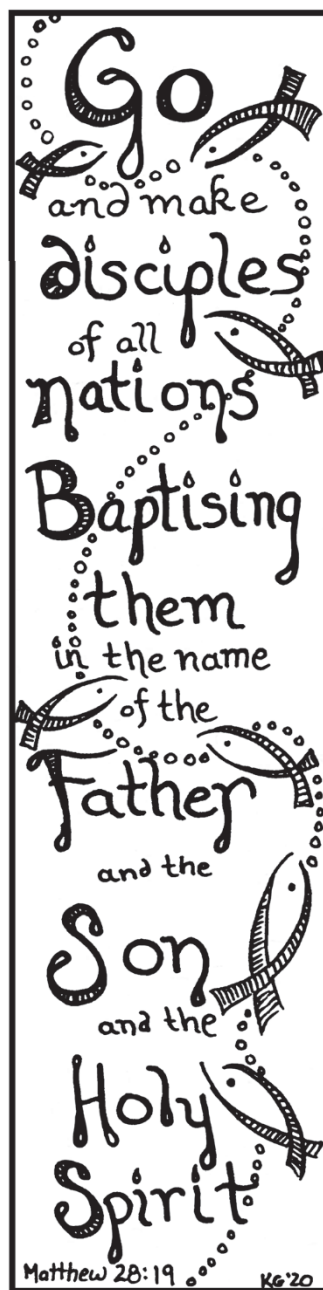
Read Psalm 8 out loud. What does it say about God? What does it say about you?

*Psalm 8*

Memorize:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*Matthew 28:20*



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Devote Yourselves to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.





# Walking Together in the Word

June 5–June 10, 2023

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 11.*

**Proper 5**

## The Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13

### The Calling of Matthew

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

## Devotion on the Gospel

Matthew was a loathed tax collector—a cheat, a scoundrel, a sell-out, a sinner above all sinners. No way that Jesus would bother with Matthew. And yet, Jesus stops at his tax collector booth, calls Matthew to follow Him, to step out of the darkness of his sin into the light of Christ. And somehow, somehow, in His infinite power, Jesus changed Matthew's heart and he became a disciple of Christ.

Matthew, as a newly converted disciple of Jesus, did what seemed natural to him—he invited all of his tax-collecting buddies to dinner to meet Jesus! Matthew might have turned away from his sin, but he didn't turn his back on sinners. He stepped out with the light of Christ and he built bridges of love and friendship to lost people around him, so that others might step into the light of Christ too.

And Jesus sits down and He eats with those "sinners" (as the Pharisees snidely called them). He gathers around with that group of social outcasts and shares with them the saving message of the Good News. Why? Because He didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Somehow, somehow, in His infinite power, Jesus has changed our heart too to make us disciples. Jesus has reached out to you and to me so that we would step out of darkness, into the light of Christ. And He has called us to reach out to others as Matthew did. We are called to step out with the light of Christ and build bridges of love and friendship to lost people all around us, so more and more might step by faith into the light of Christ.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What was most important to the Pharisees? What important truth about God did they miss?*

*Jesus has "called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Is there someone you know who is living in darkness? Pray for him or her this week, asking God to bring this person to faith and into the light of life.*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Jesus quoted verse 6 of this passage when He told the Pharisees, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What does this phrase mean?*

*What promises of God did Abraham believe by faith?  
What promises of God do we believe by faith?*

*Verse to Remember:  
Romans 4:24*

### The Old Testament Reading: Hosea 5:15–6:6

5:15 Then I will return to my lair until they have borne their guilt and seek my face—in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”

#### Israel Unrepentant

6 “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. 3 Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

4 “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. 5 Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth— then my judgments go forth like the sun. 6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

### The Epistle: Romans 4:13–25

13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” 23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

## The Psalm: Psalm 119:65-72

Do good to your servant  
according to your word, Lord.  
66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment,  
for I trust your commands.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I obey your word.  
68 You are good, and what you do is good;  
teach me your decrees.  
69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,  
I keep your precepts with all my heart.  
70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,  
but I delight in your law.  
71 It was good for me to be afflicted  
so that I might learn your decrees.  
72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me  
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Why is God's Law so precious to the psalmist? Why is it precious to us as well?*



Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*Meditate on the  
words of this hymn.  
What comfort does it  
give to you?*

The Hymn: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609

1 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

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# Faith + Life Connections

No one liked Matthew the tax collector. People stayed away from him and called him a “sinner.” But Jesus was different. Jesus said, “Come, follow Me!” and Matthew’s life changed. He became a believer and told others about Jesus. Jesus has called you too! Can you think of someone who needs to hear about Jesus’ love? *Matthew 9:9–13*

Abraham and Sarah were *old* when God promised they would have a son. God gave them faith to believe. Years later, baby Isaac was born! God promised to send a Savior for all people. Years later, Jesus was born! God keeps His promises and gives us faith to believe them. Name some other promises God has made and kept. *Romans 4:13–25*

Why did God give us rules (the Law)? Because He knows what is best for us. He forgives us for Jesus’ sake when we disobey and helps us try to do what is right. What is one of God’s rules? Why is it good? *Psalms 119:65–72*

Memorize:  
“God will credit righteousness for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.” *Romans 4:24*

righteousness  
to us  
who

believe

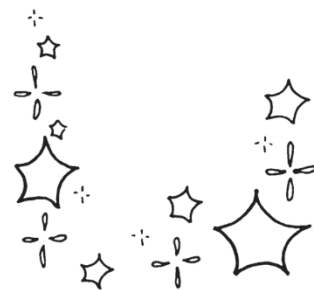
IN  
Him  
who  
raised from  
the dead

Jesus  
our

Lord

ROMANS  
4:24

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Coloring pages from [visualfaithmin.org](http://visualfaithmin.org)

Devote Yourselves to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.



# Walking Together in the Word

June 12–June 17, 2023

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 18.*

## Proper 6

### The Gospel: Matthew 9:35–10:8

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

### Devotion on the Gospel

Ever been lost? I have. More than one time, for sure. But one time in particular is seared into my memory. I was just a kid, 9 or 10 years old, with my family at the zoo. I paused to check out the monkeys in an outdoor enclosure, turned back around, and I was alone. Parents nowhere in sight. Sisters gone. I was immediately lost. Waves of fear, anxiety, and helplessness washed over me. And when a zoo worker finally reunited me with my family, oh, the elation, the relief, the joy.

Ever been lost? It’s not a good feeling. Jesus saw the lost people. They were, as Matthew describes them, “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” In other words . . . lost. Jesus saw those lost people. He did not pass on by. He did not ignore them. Scripture says that He had compassion on them. His heart broke for them. Because they were lost.

Ever been lost? Not lost in a zoo or lost while driving somewhere, but lost in the way those people were—harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Lost spiritually. Jesus’ heart breaks for people like that. Jesus has compassion on people like that. He sends “workers into His harvest field” for people like that—to share the Good News of the Good Shepherd: There is One who seeks. There is One who finds. There is One who has compassion. There is One who loves. There is One who gathers His lost children so that we are no longer harassed and helpless, no longer afraid and anxious, but found. Oh, the elation, the relief, the joy!

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Why did Jesus  
feel compassion  
for the crowds?  
What did He do?*

*“I once was lost,  
but now am found,  
was blind but now  
I see.” The hymn  
“Amazing Grace”  
speaks about being  
lost and found by  
the Savior. Listen  
to this hymn or  
hum the tune, and  
thank the Good  
Shepherd for  
finding you.*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What covenant did God make with the Israelites? Israel did not keep their part of the covenant. What did God do for His part? See the Gospel reading: Matthew 10:6.*

*Verse to Remember:  
Romans 5:8*

### The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 19:2-8

After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. 8 The people all responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

### The Epistle: Romans 5:6-15

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— 13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!



## The Psalm: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

3 Know that the Lord is God.

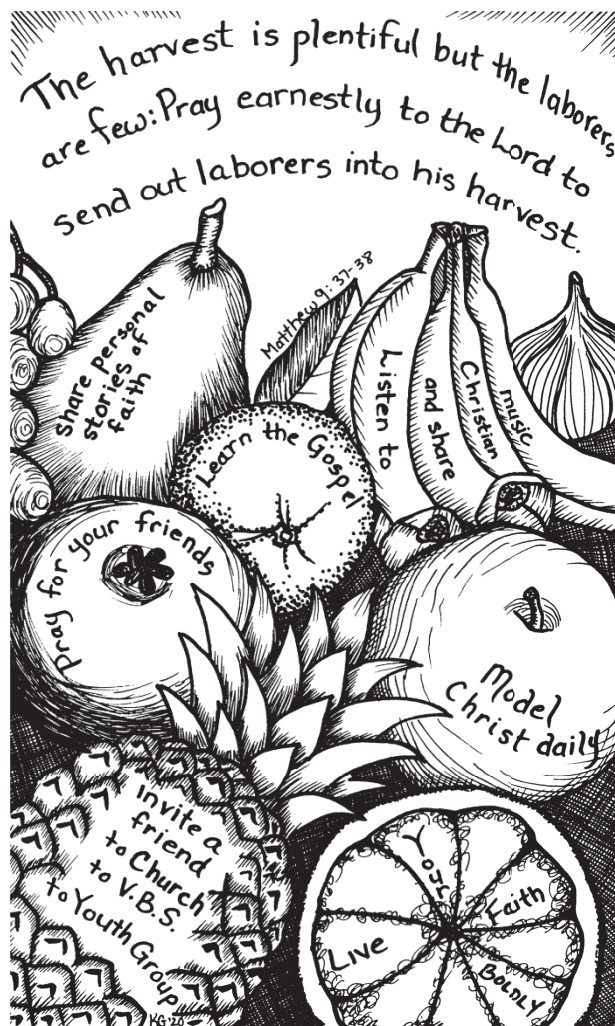
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What reasons do you have for giving thanks and praise to God?*



Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*This hymn points out many ways to share the love of Jesus. What can you do?*

The Hymn: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

LSB 826

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,  
"Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white, and harvests waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calleth,  
Rich reward he offers thee;  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
"Here am I; send me, send me."

If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all,  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the judgement's dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children  
To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,  
Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
Off'ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
You can do what God commands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying,  
And the Master calls for you:  
Take the task he gives you gladly,  
Let his work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when he calleth,  
"Here am I; send me, send me."

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"Here  
am I;  
send  
me,  
send  
me."

# Faith + Life Connections

Have you ever picked apples from an orchard? Imagine having to pick all the apples in the orchard by yourself! Jesus told His disciples that the “harvest” of people was ready—and many workers were needed to gather them in by sharing the Gospel with them. Who can you tell about Jesus this week?

*Matthew 9:35-10:8*

What would you do for a friend who needed help? What would you do for an enemy? Our sinfulness made us enemies of God, but Jesus still went to the cross to die for our sins. What great love God has for you and me!

*Romans 5:6-15*

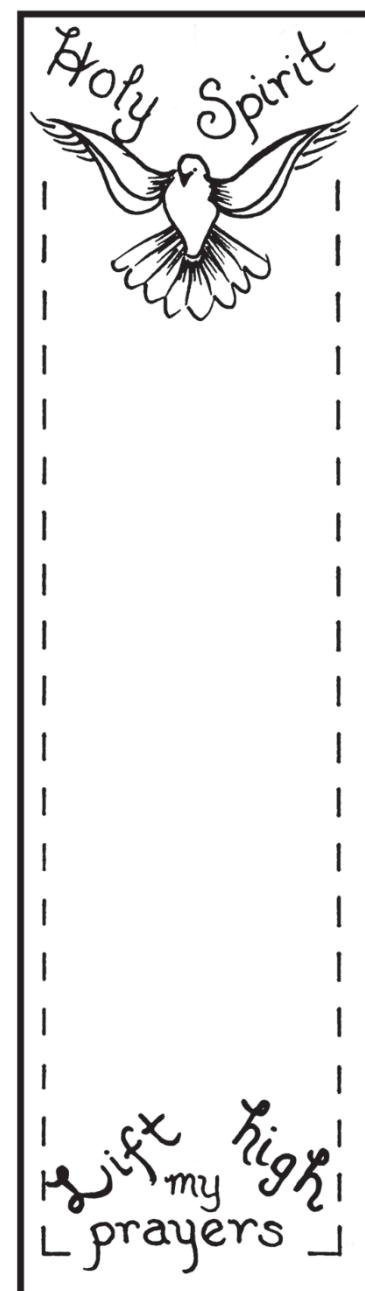
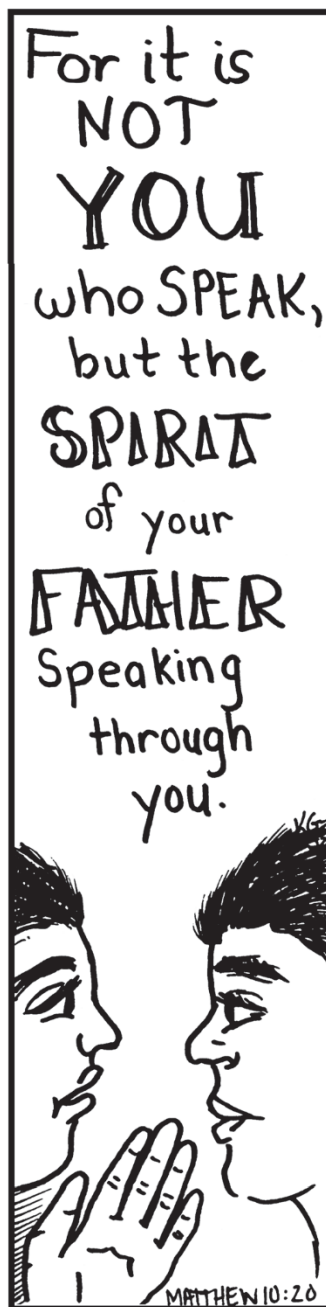
Psalms 100 is a psalm for giving thanks. Read the psalm again. What are some of the reasons the psalmist gives for giving thanks? Make a list of the things you are thankful for, and keep adding to it all week.

*Psalms 100*

Memorize:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

*Romans 5:8*



Coloring pages from [visualfaithmin.org](http://visualfaithmin.org)

Devote Yourselves to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*  
Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.



# Walking Together in the Word

June 19–24, 2023

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 25.*

## The Gospel: Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans.

“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 22 You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

26 “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

## Devotion on the Gospel

Jesus is sending out the 12 disciples and giving them some final instructions before they go. This is a most pivotal time in their lives and in their ministry. They are being sent out to share the Gospel, to find the lost, to be fishers of men.

So, Jesus says, before you go, I have to warn you: You are going out like sheep among wolves. You’ll be handed over to the local councils. You will be flogged in the synagogues. You are going to face persecution. In fact, everyone is going to hate you because of Me.

Gee, thanks for the pep talk, Jesus!

But Jesus isn’t done. Don’t be afraid, He says. If I care for and watch over the little sparrows of the air which are sold for just a half a penny each, won’t I also care for and watch over you—the crown of my creation? Won’t I care for and watch over you who are worth so much more to Me than many sparrows?

Of course He will! And He does!

Those words aren’t only for those 12 disciples about to share their faith with others. Those words are for disciples of every time and place. Those words are for you and me as He calls us to share our faith with others. Do not be afraid! I will care for and watch over you too! After all, aren’t you worth more than many sparrows?

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Jesus warned His disciples about the dangers and difficulties they would face as they went out to share the Gospel. They still went! Why do you think they did?*

*When have you felt afraid to share your faith? How do Jesus’ words encourage you?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*The prophet  
Jeremiah was  
hated and  
persecuted for  
proclaiming God's  
word to His people.  
What made  
Jeremiah able to  
sing praise to the  
Lord?*

## The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived;  
you overpowered me and prevailed.

I am ridiculed all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

8 Whenever I speak, I cry out  
proclaiming violence and destruction.

So the word of the Lord has brought me  
insult and reproach all day long.

9 But if I say, "I will not mention his word  
or speak anymore in his name,"

his word is in my heart like a fire,  
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;  
indeed, I cannot.

10 I hear many whispering,  
"Terror on every side!

Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"

All my friends  
are waiting for me to slip, saying,

"Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we will prevail over him  
and take our revenge on him."

11 But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;  
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.

They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;  
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

12 Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous  
and probe the heart and mind,

let me see your vengeance on them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

13 Sing to the Lord!

Give praise to the Lord!

He rescues the life of the needy  
from the hands of the wicked.



## The Epistle: Romans 6:12–23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## The Psalm: Psalm 91:1–10

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

3 Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

5 You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,

10 no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*We may be tempted to keep sinning because we know that Jesus paid for our sins. What is Paul's response to this type of erroneous thinking?*

*Verse to Remember:  
Romans 6:23*

*God is our shelter, shadow, refuge, and fortress. Pick one of these metaphors. How does it describe how God cares for you?*

Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*This hymn was originally written in German as a plea to God for peace in the church during the Thirty Years' War, which was spurred by a conflict between Catholics and Protestants. We continue to pray for peace—peace in our hearts, peace in the church, peace in our world.*

The Hymn: Lord of Our Life *LSB* 659

Lord of our life and God of our salvation,  
Star of our night and Hope of ev'ry nation:  
Hear and receive Your Church's supplication,  
Lord God Almighty.

See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;  
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling  
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,  
O Lord, preserve us.

Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;  
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;  
And in the day when hell itself assails us,  
Grant us Your peace, Lord:

Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,  
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,  
Peace when the world its endless war is waging,  
Peace in Your heaven.

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*Grant us  
Your peace,  
Lord*



# Faith + Life Connections

Do a little bird-watching today. Do you see how God cares for the birds, giving them food, water, shelter, and materials to build their nests? If God cares for the birds, do you think He will care for you? Yes! God also gives you courage to go and tell others about Him. He is with you!

*Matthew 10:5a, 21-33*

Do you like to be told what to do? Sometimes, it depends on who's telling you to do it! Without God in our lives, sin rules over us, telling us what to do. But when Jesus lives in our hearts, sin can't control us anymore. Instead, we serve our loving God, who helps us do what is good and right.

*Romans 6:12-23*

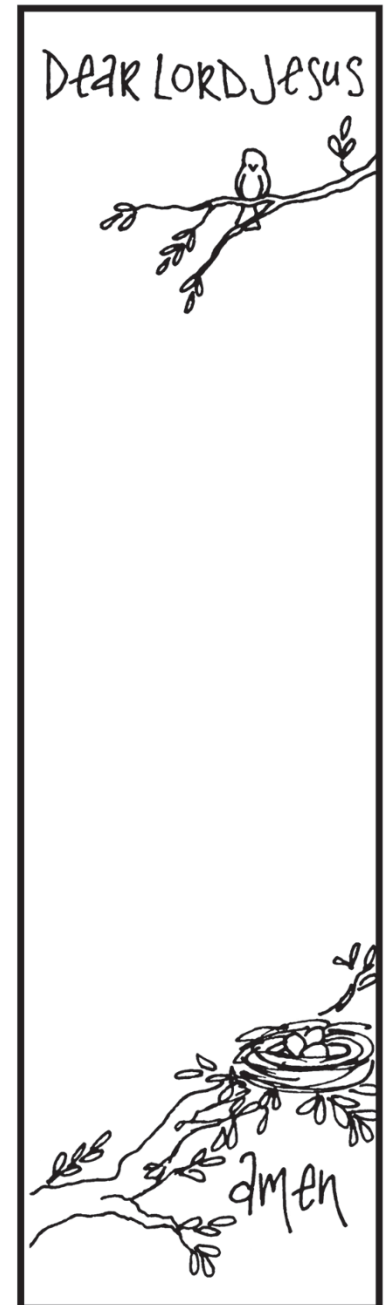
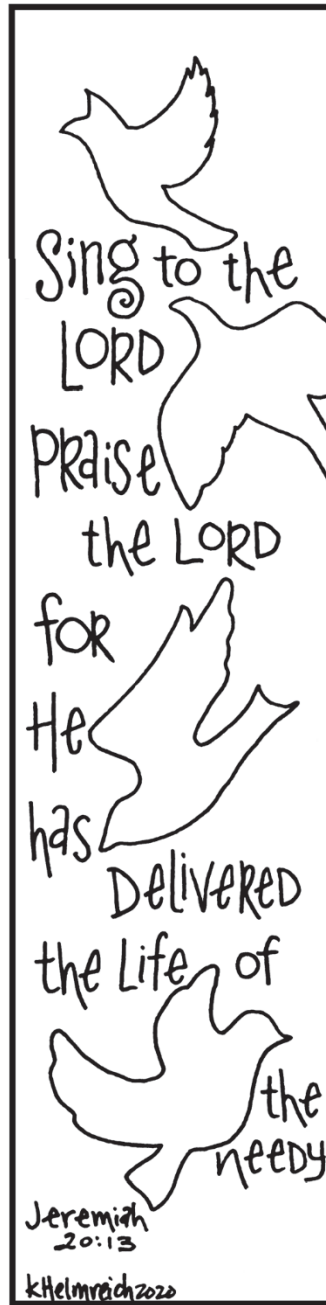
A mother bird protects her young by covering them with her wings. Look online and find a picture of this. Who protects you? The psalmist says God will "cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."

*Psalms 91:1-10*

Memorize:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23



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Devote Yourselves to Prayer

*Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.

