

# *Walking Together in the Word*

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for March 2024

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

February 26–March 2, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 3.*

**Lent 3**

## The Gospel: John 2:13–22

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

18 The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

## Devotion on the Gospel

Truth be told, we don’t usually see Jesus like this—upset, angry, livid even. But Jesus walked into the temple that day and He saw merchants, and He saw the animals being swapped and sold, and He smelled the manure all over the place. And Jesus exploded in righteous anger.

We can understand His anger. Jesus walked into that beautiful temple. That place which was dedicated to be the place where God was number one, and God was certainly not number one! There was bargaining. There was buying. There was selling. And all of it taking place in the outer court—the one place where the Gentiles could come and pray. So instead of a place of prayer and worship, with the cacophony of sights and sounds and smells, it had been turned into the temple trading post.

Jesus is always concerned about good worship. Today too! He asks that when we come to worship, God is number one. We focus on the great love He brings to His people; the sacrifice that He made for our forgiveness; the salvation that He brings to us; the love and joy and peace we receive from our God; the abiding presence we have with the Savior.

When we come to worship and God is first, then we see a Christ who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature. Purchased and won me from all sin and from death and from the power of the devil. Not with gold or silver, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. So that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. This is most certainly true!

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*It is interesting to note the reaction to Jesus’ cleansing of the temple. How did the Jews respond to Him? What was the reaction of the disciples?*

*God calls us to have great zeal for worship in the house of the Lord. Pray together this prayer this week:*

*I love Your kingdom,  
Lord,  
The place of Your  
abode,  
The Church our blest  
Redeemer saved  
With His own  
precious blood.  
LSB 651:1*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Read Matthew 22:34-40. How does Jesus summarize the 10 Commandments (and the rest of the Law)?

Take some time and read through Luther's Small Catechism on the 10 Commandments and their meaning (<https://catechism.cph.org/en/10-commandments.html>)

As part of your devotion time, memorize the 10 Commandments this week.

## The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."



## The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

## The Psalm: Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Why is it, as Paul says, that those who are wise in terms of the world's wisdom have difficulty believing the message of the cross?*

*In what ways is the Good News of the crucified and risen Christ both “the power of God and the wisdom of God?” (verse 24)*

*The glory of the Lord, the Psalmist says, is declared by the creation of God. How do you see God's glory in the created world around you? (see Psalm 50:6; 89:5-8; 97:6; Romans 1:19-20)*

*In verse 7-11, David describes God's law and its wonderful benefits. Write down the blessings David talks about in these verses.*

*Verse to Remember:  
Psalm 19:14*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*This hymn was written in 1930 by Harry Emerson Fosdick for the dedication of Riverside Church in New York City while the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression and between the two World Wars.*

*How does this hymn prayer speak to us almost 100 years later in the current context of our lives and our world?*

## The Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory *LSB 850*

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

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# Faith + Life Connections

Imagine you walked into church and it smelled like the zoo! What if there were noisy animals for sale in the church lobby? You might not like it. Jesus didn't. Church is God's house, where we come to worship and pray. God wants us to think about Him when we come to church. How can you do that this week?

*John 2:13-22*

Why did God give us the 10 Commandments? Not because He loves giving rules, but because He loves us! God's Law shows us how to live in peace with God and others. The Holy Spirit helps us follow God's law. Jesus forgives us when we mess up and helps us try again.

*Exodus 20:1-17*

It's hard for some people to understand why Jesus died on the cross. They think it's foolish. But Jesus' death and resurrection shows God's wisdom. Because Jesus died, we will live!

*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

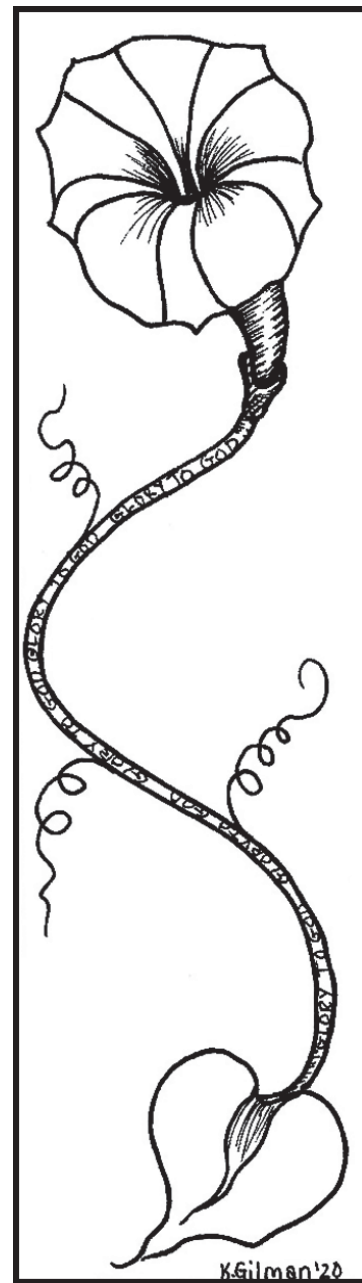
Memorize:

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

The  
foolishness  
of  
God  
is  
wiser  
than  
men

*K. Gilman '20*

*1 Corinthians 1:25*



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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

March 4–March 9, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 10.*

**Lent 4**

## The Gospel: John 3:14–21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

## Devotion on the Gospel

A little time with Jesus can change a life forever. That’s what we see with Nicodemus, don’t we? Nicodemus was a Pharisee, but he has some questions that he just has to get answered. And so Nicodemus sneaks to see Jesus at night. And as Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, the Spirit is working on his heart. “You must be born again,” Jesus says. He predicts the cross: “The Son of Man must be lifted up, just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness.” And the Gospel in a nutshell: “For God so loved the world...” A little time with Jesus can change a life forever. So much so with Nicodemus, that at the end, after Jesus died on the cross, Nicodemus was one who helped bury the Savior.

A little time with Jesus can change a life forever. Yours too, right? The Spirit came to you through the waters of Holy Baptism, changing you forever. The voice of the Savior speaks—and He speaks like no one else: You are my child. And all the gifts of the cross—the love, the forgiveness, the mercy, the grace—all of it I give to you.

And we keep coming back to spend a little time with Jesus—spending a little time with Him in His Word. Many of us keep coming back to spend a little time with Jesus at Holy Communion. It’s a time when Jesus forgives us, renews us, refreshes us, and strengthens us in the faith.

And maybe before you go to bed at night you whisper your prayers to Him: “It’s so good to be with you, Jesus. Thank you for Your presence in my life.” Because a little time with Jesus makes such a big difference. In fact, it can change a life forever.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Note the places we see Nicodemus in the Gospel of John (3:1-21; 7:45-52; 19:38-42). Notice how the Spirit worked in him to bring him to faith in Jesus as his Savior.*

*How did God bring salvation through His only-begotten Son? Why was it necessary for God to give His Son? (see Romans 3:22-24)*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What was the “miserable food” (verse 5) that the people detested? In rejecting this food, what else were the Israelites rejecting?

In what ways was the bronze snake in the desert a foreshadowing of what Jesus Himself would experience and accomplish?

What is it that makes us “alive with Christ?” (verse 5)

How do Paul’s words emphasize that it is entirely by God’s grace that we have been saved?

Verse to Remember:  
Ephesians 2:8-9

## The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

## The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## The Psalm: Psalm 107:1-9

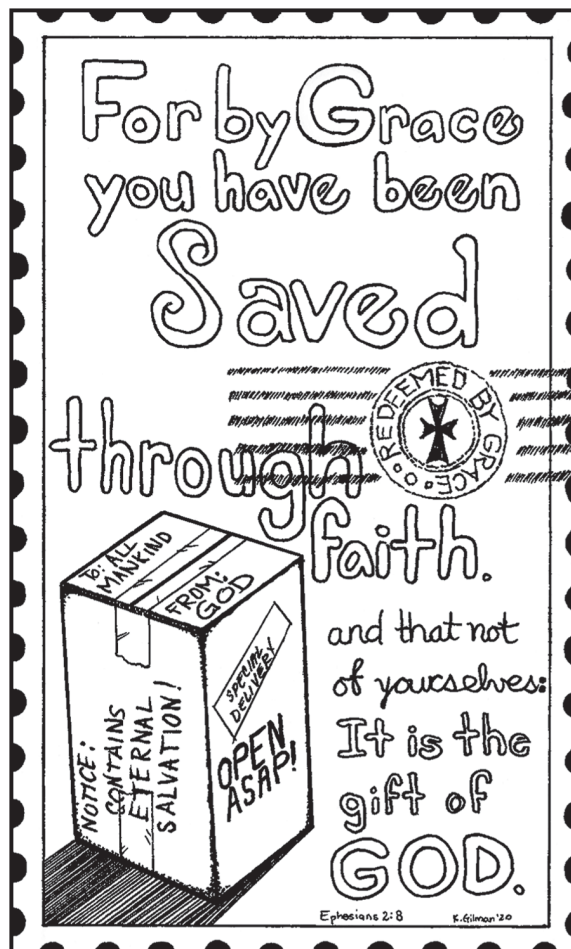
- Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- 3 those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.
- 4 Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.
- 6 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
- 9 for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Verse 1 of this psalm is a call to thank and praise God that we see several times in the psalms (106:1; 118:1; 136:1). Pray this verse each day this week as you set aside time for prayer and devotions.*

*Verses 4 and following speak of "some wandering in the desert wastelands."*

*What might have this imagery brought to mind for the psalmist's hearers? In what ways do we "wander" in the wasteland of sin? Who will deliver us?*



## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*In the second stanza, and again in the fifth stanza of this hymn, the author writes that Jesus Christ is the "ground of faith."*

*Read Matthew 7:24-27. How does Jesus' story about the wise and foolish builders relate to this hymn?*

## The Hymn: God Loved the World So that He Gave *LSB* 571

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

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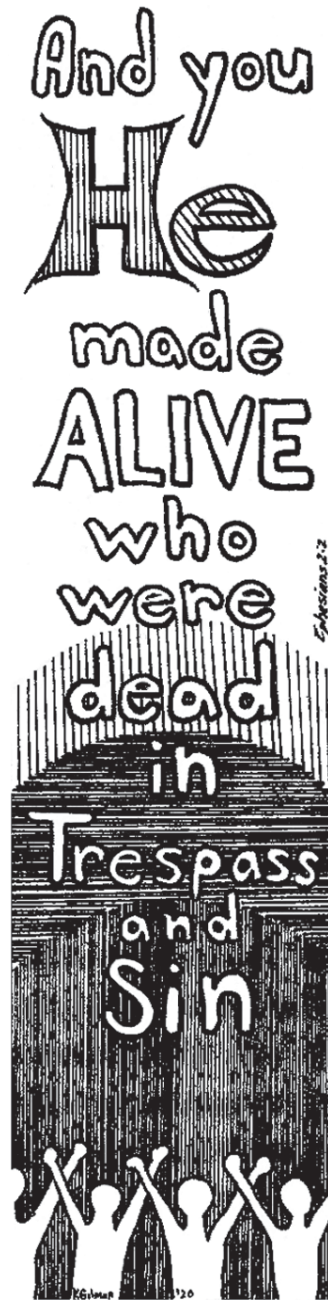
# Faith + Life Connections

Turn off the lights. How does it feel to sit in darkness? Now light a candle or turn on the light. Jesus is the light that takes away all fear of sin, death, and darkness. Jesus shines as hope for all to see! Say John 3:16 together. Who did Jesus come to save? Everyone! *John 3:14-21*

God's people didn't trust Him. God punished them by sending snakes. But God also showed them mercy (undeserved kindness). Anyone who looked up at a snake on a pole would live. We look at Jesus on the cross. We trust in Him as our Savior and we have eternal life! *Numbers 21:4-9*

What does God want us to do? He wants us to love others! The Bible tells us He planned good works for us to do before we were even born. How awesome is that! *Ephesians 2:1-10*

**Memorize:**  
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.  
*Ephesians 2:8-9*



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**Devote Yourself 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

March 11–March 16, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 17.*

**Lent 5**

## The Gospel: Mark 10:35–45

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” 36 “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. 37 They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” 38 “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

39 “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” 41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## Devotion on the Gospel

How would you describe them, those disciples? Blind? Oblivious? Thoughtless? Clueless? Sickly self-absorbed?

Jesus says that He is going to suffer and die, and it’s almost as if they completely dismiss it, gloss over it, don’t even hear it! “We’d like positions of authority!” Wow! We, on the outside looking in, we who have the benefit of history and knowing the whole story, we who would never act like these nitwits—oh, we would never be like this: blind, oblivious, thoughtless, clueless, sickly self-absorbed.

But actually . . . I think it does describe quite well a few people I hear about or see on television or the news. It also describes some people I personally know. And, I’m sorry to say, it describes me sometimes—a blind, oblivious, thoughtless, clueless, sickly self-absorbed person.

But Jesus is calling us to a new way of life. We are called to be different. We are called to serve—in feeding the hungry, in visiting the sick, in spending time with the lonely, in nurturing children, in sharing the Good News by word and deed. God calls all of us to serve. And a call to serve is the total opposite of being a blind, oblivious, thoughtless, clueless, sickly self-absorbed person!

God calls us to serve in spite of our shortcomings and complaints, in spite of our excuses and weaknesses. He calls us to serve, always with a promise of His presence and His power. He equips. He encourages. He empowers. And then He shows us that One who came as a servant—the One who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*“The cup” that Jesus was to drink is a figure of speech for intense suffering.*

*When did Jesus drink the cup of suffering? When did the disciples?*

*Read Mark 9:33-37. Note how both passages deal with true greatness and both follow a prediction of Jesus’ suffering and death. Why are the disciples so spiritually undiscerning? Can you identify with their sinful and self-centered attitude?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*God states that the Israelites had broken His covenant. What incidents from the Old Testament can you think of to illustrate this? Why were the Israelites unable to keep the covenant?*

*Through Jeremiah, God promised to establish a new covenant with His people. This new covenant would not be written on stone, but where? (see verse 33)*

## The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the Lord.

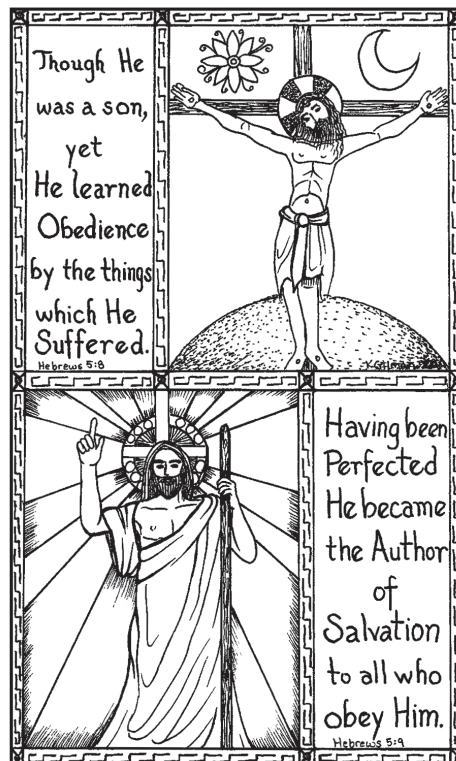
33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”





## The Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. 5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." 6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." 7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

I have hidden your Word  
in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.

## The Psalm: Psalm 119:9-16

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity?  
By living according to your word.  
10 I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.  
11 I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.  
12 Praise be to you, Lord;  
teach me your decrees.  
13 With my lips I recount  
all the laws that come from your mouth.  
14 I rejoice in following your statutes  
as one rejoices in great riches.  
15 I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.  
16 I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*God appointed His Son, Jesus, to be priest on behalf of His people. How did Jesus fulfill the priestly office?*

*The author of Hebrews says that after His perfect obedience and suffering, Jesus became the source of salvation to all who believe. What connection is there between Christ's obedience and our salvation?*

*The psalmist shares that he has "hidden God's word in my heart." In ways do we "hide" God's word in our hearts? How can this be a great blessing to us?*

*Verse to Remember:  
Psalm 119:11*

*Note the three verbs the psalmist uses in verses 14-16 in regard to God's law. Think about how you can rejoice in following God's law, how you can meditate on it, and how you can delight in it.*

Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*What do you think the author of this hymn means by referring to the saving work of Jesus as "love unknown?" (see Ephesians 3:16-19)*

The Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown *LSB* 430

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
Themselves displease  
And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suff'ring goes  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.

In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

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# Faith + Life Connections

Who doesn't like going first? We like to be first in line, first to get dessert, and first to play. Jesus' disciples wanted to be first too. But that's not how God wants us to act. Jesus said, "put others first." Jesus showed us how to do that as He cared for others and then went to the cross for our sins. How can you put others first this week?

*Mark 10:35-45*

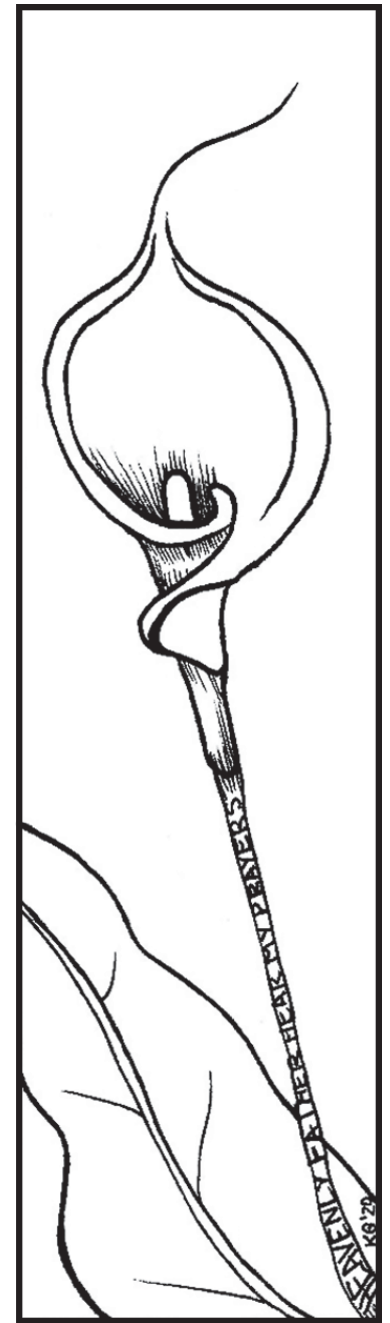
God made a *covenant*, a promise, with the Israelites: love and obey Me, and I will be your God. But they didn't always love and obey God. So God made a new covenant: My Son will pay for your sins, and the Spirit will give you faith, so that you can be with Me forever. How will you thank God for His covenant of love? *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Priests in the Old Testament offered sacrifices for the sins of the people. Jesus is the last and greatest priest—He offered Himself on the cross to pay for all our sins!

*Hebrews 5:1-10*

Memorize:

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11



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

March 18–March 23, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 24.*

## Palm Sunday

### The Gospel: John 12:12–19

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

### Devotion on the Gospel

Everyone likes a parade! In fact, I have a sneaking suspicion that even our Lord Jesus liked parades. That first Palm Sunday parade, that was His idea! It was Jesus who ordered the donkey. It was Jesus who paraded through Jerusalem. It was Jesus who accepted the praises of the cheering crowd. It was Jesus who enjoyed the singing and shouting of the crowd as they cried, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” It’s a beautiful parade.

We are part of the parade too, aren’t we? Sure we are! We come singing and we come shouting His praise: All glory, laud, and honor to You, Redeemer, King! It’s a beautiful parade that we are part of. Proudly we claim Him as our King. Warmly we welcome Him today into our homes and into our hearts and into our lives. Dearly we cling to Him today as our loving Savior.

And we follow Jesus in His Palm Sunday parade. And then we follow Him to the Upper Room, and Gethsemane, and before the Sanhedrin and Pilate. We follow Him as He makes His way to the cross on Calvary. And there the parade stops for a while. We watch Him suffer and die. We watch Him bear the sins of the world—your sins and mine.

But the parade isn’t over! The parade goes on to the empty tomb. And there at that empty grave we will cry out together: He lives! And because He lives, I will live too! We follow Jesus to Jerusalem, to the cross, to the Easter tomb, praising Him the whole way. Oh, what a beautiful parade!

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*“Hosanna” means “Save us.” This word and “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” are quotes from Psalm 118:25-26.*

*What do you think the crowd was shouting to be saved from? Is this what Jesus came to save them from?*

*Why did Jesus choose to come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey? (see Zechariah 9:9)*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Zechariah pictures the Messiah as a humble King, entering the city on a lowly donkey. What is strikingly different about this promised King than other worldly kings?*

*What are the characteristic features of the kingdom that the coming King will establish?*

*This reading can be divided into two parts. The first part talks about Jesus' humility while the second part talks about His glory. How does St. Paul illustrate Jesus' humility? His glory?*

*What is the end result of every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord?*

*Verse to Remember:  
Philippians 2:10-11*

## The Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

11 As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

12 Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;  
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

*At the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow*

## The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own  
advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## The Psalm: Psalm 118:19-29

Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
20 This is the gate of the Lord  
through which the righteous may enter.  
21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.  
22 The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
23 the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
24 The Lord has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.  
25 Lord, save us!  
Lord, grant us success!  
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.  
27 The Lord is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up to the horns of the altar.  
28 You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.  
29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*How does Jesus apply Psalm 118:22-23 to Himself? (see Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17)*

*Verse 24 is a wonderful verse of praise to God for His good gifts. Pray this verse each day this week as you set aside time for prayer and devotions.*

*You are my God, and I will praise You;  
You are my God, and I will  
exalt You.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
His love endures forever.*

Notes,  
Thoughts,  
Questions

*On the first Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!" Today, we sing this hymn in praise to our God.*

*Take time to pray this hymn to Jesus who is our humble, servant King.*

The Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor *LSB 442*

All glory, laud, and honor  
To You, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel  
And David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming,  
Our King and Blessèd One. Refrain

The company of angels  
Is praising You on high,  
And we with all creation  
In chorus make reply. Refrain

The multitude of pilgrims  
With palms before You went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before You we present. Refrain

To You before Your passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To You, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise. Refrain

As You received their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

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# Faith + Life Connections

Do you like parades? What do you like about them? Can you imagine what it was like to be at Jesus' Palm Sunday parade? Imagine laying palm branches on the ground, singing "Hosanna!" and seeing Jesus Himself riding on a donkey! Why not make your own parade for Jesus? Sing praises to King Jesus!

*John 12:12-19*

Jesus coming to earth to be our Savior was all part of God's great plan of salvation for us. Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God gave His people messages about the Savior who would come. This Bible reading is one of them! What does it say Jesus will do?

*Zechariah 9:9-12*

Jesus is God. He became a human, like us, so He could die for our sins. How incredible is that! Jesus, our God and King, deserves all our honor and praise!

*Philippians 2:5-11*

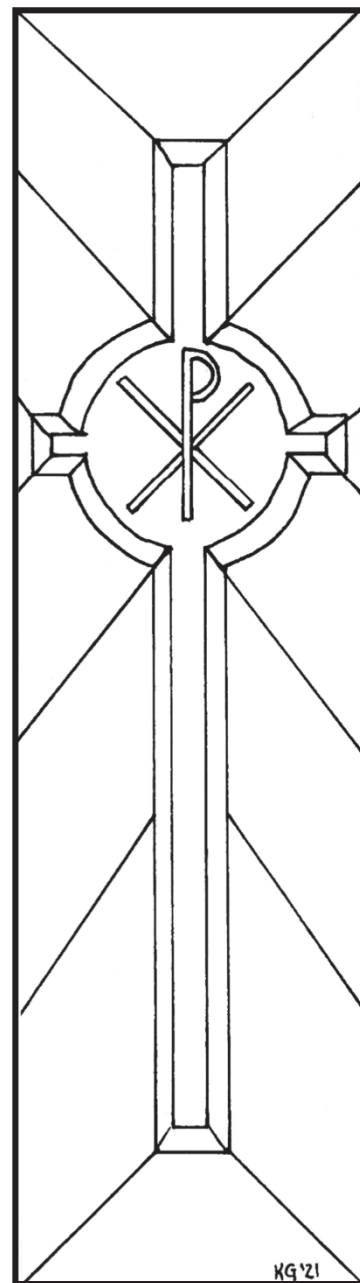
**Memorize:**

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
*Philippians 2:10-11*

Every tongue  
should confess  
that  
Jesus  
Christ  
is  
Lord



*Philippians 2:11* KG'21



KG'21

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**Devote Yourself 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.

