

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for May, 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 1–May 6, 2023

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, May 7.

Easter 5

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Devotion on the Gospel

Troubled hearts. That’s what we have here in John 14. Troubled hearts. If you remember, John 14 occurs before the resurrection, before the crucifixion. John 14 takes place on Maundy Thursday evening in that upper room in Jerusalem. And the disciples’ hearts were troubled—very troubled.

It seems like the closer Jesus got to the cross, the more troubled His disciples became. Jesus is very clear. He is willing to lay His life on the line—He is willing to die—to fulfill the purpose for which He came. And that is troubling for the disciples.

You and I know what that’s like, don’t we? To have troubled hearts. Disappointments that bring the troubles, difficult circumstances that are troubling, spiritual troubles as we stumble and fall in our sin. Troubled.

But listen to Jesus’ words: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” You don’t have to be troubled! Because I am going to heaven and I’m going to prepare a place for you and then I will come back and take you to be with me. You can follow me. I will lead you. I will guide you. You can have peace! You can have comfort! You don’t need to be troubled. Because I am the way and the truth and the life—for you!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Some people think there are many ways to get to heaven. How does Jesus refute that idea?

What comfort does it give you that Jesus has prepared a place for you in heaven?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Why do you think Stephen was able to forgive those who stoned and killed him?

The First Testament Reading: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

2 To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

51 "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— 53 you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Psalm: Psalm 146

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

2 I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,
8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
1 Peter 2:9

What reasons does the Psalmist give for putting trust in God alone?

Underline all that the Lord has done, and continues to do, for His people.

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

*How do the words of
this hymn describe
how Jesus is the **way**,
the **truth**, and the **life**?*

The Hymn: You Are the Way; Through You Alone 526

You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

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You are the Way,
the Truth,
the Life

Faith + Life Connections

“In my Father’s house are many rooms,” Jesus said. “And I am going to prepare a place for you.” Doesn’t that thought give you great joy? There’s a fun song that talks about these words of Jesus. Look online for the music and lyrics to “Big House” by Audio Adrenaline. Listen and sing!

Jhn 14:1-14

Jesus is the living stone on which our faith is built. We are living stones too—we make up the Church! Find a rock for each person in your family. Mark each with a cross and a name and set them where you have your devos.

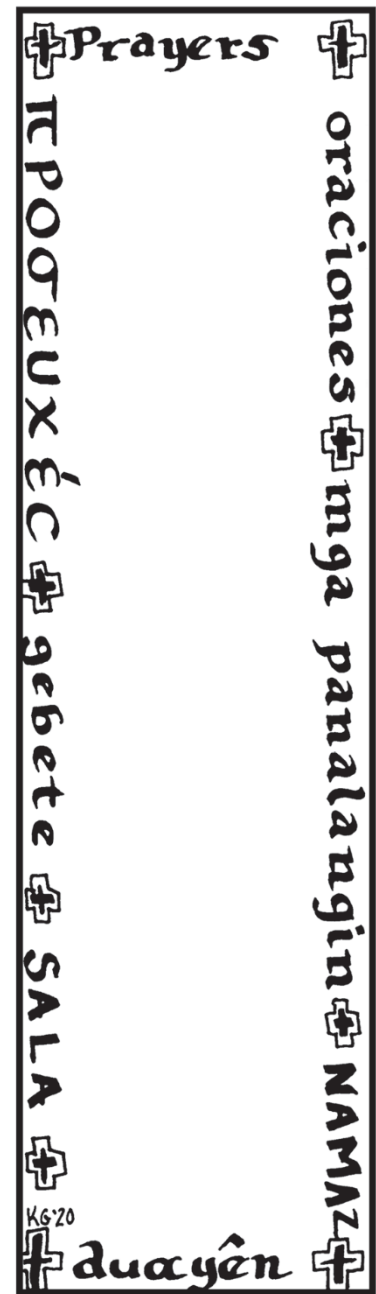
1 Peter 2:2-10

Read Psalm 146 together and make a list of the reasons it gives for trusting God. Then make your own list. What has God done for you? How does that help you to trust in Him?

Psalm 146

Memorize:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9



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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

May 8–May 13, 2023

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, May 14.

Easter 6

The Gospel: John 14:15–21

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Devotion on the Gospel

The Bible speaks of love. God’s love. His love for us and our love for Him. Earlier in the Gospel of John, Jesus says: “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.” Oh, that’s love!

The world and our culture also speak of love. But it can never measure up to God’s love! In fact, so very often the “love” that we see in this world is imitation love, counterfeit love, false love, cheap love.

Listen to Jesus in this text: “He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” Oh, how He shows Himself to us! He points us to a cross and shows us Himself. And from that cross pours down God’s love: forgiveness, life, salvation. I love you! That’s God talking to this sinful world. That’s God talking to you and me!

Jesus rises from the tomb and gives that victory over death to us. He showers His love on His children. He shares His strength, His comfort, His peace. He blesses with His grace, His joy, His mercy. His love for us causes us to love Him back. And there’s nothing imitation or counterfeit or false or cheap about it. That’s real love. And we know that love.

The one who loves me will be
loved by my Father,
and I too will love them and
show myself to them.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Who did Jesus promise to send to be with us forever and to help us? When did Jesus send that Helper?

Think about and talk about the difference between worldly love and God’s love.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How did Paul go about talking with the non-believers in Athens? How is his example helpful to us as we talk about Jesus with non-believers?

The Old Testament Reading: Acts 17:16-31

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

The Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 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.

The Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20

8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;
9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.
10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.
11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.
12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
13 I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—
14 vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.
15 I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
16 Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.
17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.
18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;
19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.
20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
1 Peter 3:15

*How has God worked
through hardships in
your life to make your
faith in Him stronger?*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This hymn was originally written as a communion hymn for Ascension Sunday. It was inspired by Revelation 5:9, "And they sang a new song, saying, You are worthy . . . because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

What references to the Lord's Supper do you see in this hymn?

The Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus *LSB* 821

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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Faith + Life Connections

Take turns describing what love is. Kind of difficult, isn't it? True love is often best described by how we show that love. When we truly love someone, we show it through our actions. That's what God did. He showed us His love by giving His only Son for our salvation. How can you show love to God and others?

John 14:15-21

The people in Athens worshiped many gods, even "the unknown god." Paul told them who the true God is, so they could believe and have life! The Bible tells us who the true God is. What are some things the Bible tells us about our one, true God?

Acts 17:16-31

Alleluia! is a joyful shout or song of praise to God. Clap your hands, wave ribbons or streamers, and sing some Alleluia songs to Jesus to praise Him for His love.

Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Memorize:

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15



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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

May 15–May 20, 2023

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, May 21.

Easter 7

The Gospel: John 17:1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Devotion on the Gospel

What a wonderful prayer this is! As Jesus heads to the cross in just a matter of hours, His mind and His heart are on His disciples. It has come to be known as the High Priestly Prayer because Jesus intercedes for us as our High Priest before the throne of God the Father. Jesus says, “I will remain in the world no longer, but my disciples are still in the world... Holy Father, protect them.”

Jesus knows the world’s deceit. He knows the world’s pride. He knows the world’s danger. While His disciples are in the world, He doesn’t want them to be of the world. It is why He prays, “Father, protect them.”

That prayer is not just for His disciples in that Upper Room. That prayer is for you and me today. Romans 8 tells us that Jesus is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us. He is praying for us! Protect them, Lord.

Did you know that God has already answered that prayer? Paul declares it in Ephesians 6. We have the full armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Our God loves us, cares for us, watches over us, and protects us.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Verse to Remember:
John 17:3*

*Do you have fears,
needs, or worries right
now? Take them to
Jesus. He is listening,
and He has promised
to pray before the
throne of God the
Father for you!*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What did Jesus' disciples do after Jesus ascended to heaven? Jesus' mother, Mary, and His brothers joined them.

What a difference from what Jesus' brothers first thought about Him! See Mark 3:20-21. Jesus' resurrection changed them!

The First Reading: Acts 1:12-26

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. 17 He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

18 (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. 19 Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms:

"May his place be deserted;

let there be no one to dwell in it,' and,

"May another take his place of leadership.'

21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, 22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

23 So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen 25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

They all joined together
constantly in prayer

The Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him.

2 May you blow them away like smoke—
as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God.

3 But may the righteous be glad
and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

6 God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

7 When you, God, went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

8 the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.

9 You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.

10 Your people settled in it,
and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What encouragement do these verses give to us in times of suffering?

What did God do for the Israelites? What has He done for you?

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

*What reasons does
this hymn give for
Jesus to be crowned
"King of all"?*

The Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns *LSB 525*

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

Crown
Him
the
Lord
of
love

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Walking Together in the Word, May 15-May 20, 2023

Faith + Life Connections

Do you pray for other people? Most likely, you do! You pray for those in need, and you pray for those you love. Did you know that Jesus prays for you? Take some time today to pray, for others and for yourself, knowing that Jesus hears and takes your needs to the Father.

John 17:1-11

Fill a bag with heavy items and let everyone take a turn trying to lift it. Sometimes we feel worried or anxious. God knows this, and He invites us to take all our worries and burdens and give them to Him. He cares for us.

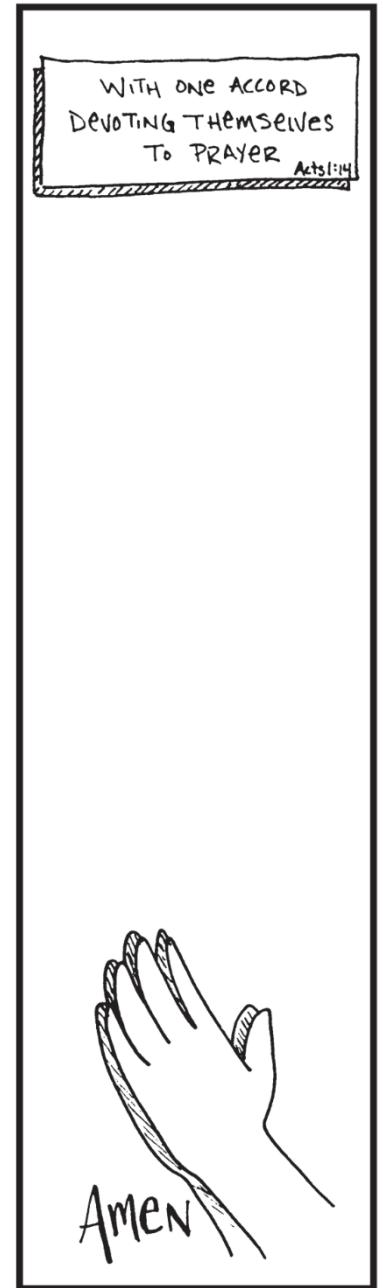
1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11

Make a paper crown, and as you read or listen to this hymn (look online for music), write on the crown all the reasons that Jesus our King is worthy to be crowned with many crowns!

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Memorize:

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
John 17:3



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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

May 22–May 27, 2023

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, May 28.

Pentecost

The Gospel: John 7:37–39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Devotion on the Gospel

What a beautiful, simple invitation Jesus offers. Is anyone thirsty? Is anyone thirsty for the salvation of their souls? Then come to me. Come! And when you come, you will be coming to the One who came into the world for you, who died on the cross for you, who rose again for you. And whoever believes in me, Jesus says, out will flow from you streams of living water. The Holy Spirit will fill you and flow out from you! Is anyone thirsty?

I know that many are thirsty. I also know that many try to quench that spiritual thirst in so many different ways. But if you try to quench that thirst apart from Christ, you will stay thirsty.

Is anyone thirsty? Jesus says, Come to me and drink. Jesus offers His life, His death, His resurrection. He offers us the best that He has!

Is anyone thirsty? Come! Does anyone need refreshment? New life? Hope? Strength? Forgiveness? Come, Jesus says. Give me that precious life of yours. I will touch it, I will enrich it, I will save it, and I will give you living water. And that living water will then flow out from you so you may be a blessing to others.

[Jesus said] “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This wasn't the first time Jesus talked about "living water." See John 4:10.

Do you know someone who is spiritually thirsty? Share with them the thirst-quenching message of Jesus' love for them.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Look at what Moses said in verse 29. When was this fulfilled? See Acts 2, below.

What part of the Pentecost account do you find most exciting, surprising, or amazing?

The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 11:24-30

So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. 25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

26 However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. 27 A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

29 But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” 30 Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

The Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

14 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. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

The Psalm: Psalm 25:1-15

In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.
2 I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
3 No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
4 Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.
8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.
11 For the sake of your name, Lord,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.
12 Who, then, are those who fear the Lord?
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.
13 They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.
14 The Lord confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.
15 My eyes are ever on the Lord,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
Psalm 25:5

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

How does this hymn describe the work of the Holy Spirit?

The Hymn: Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid *LSB 500*

Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind;
Come, pour Your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free;
May we Your living temples be.

O Source of uncreated light,
The bearer of God's gracious might,
Thrice-holy fount, thrice-holy fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Your sacred, healing message bring
To sanctify us as we sing.

Giver of grace, descend from high;
Your sev'nfold gifts to us supply;
Help us eternal truths receive
And practice all that we believe;
Give us Yourself that we may see
The glory of the Trinity.

Immortal honor, endless fame
Attend the_almighty Father's name;
The Savior-Son be glorified,
Who for all humankind has died;
To You, O Paraclete, we raise
Unending songs of thanks and praise.

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From sin and
sorrow
set us free;
May we
Your living
temples be.

Faith + Life Connections

Enjoy cold glasses of water as you read these verses. Talk about how it feels to be thirsty, and then to quench your thirst with water. We need water to live. We need Jesus' living water to have eternal life!

John 7:37-39

Make flame and wind streamers from white and red ribbon or paper strips taped to sticks. Read the account of Pentecost from a Bible storybook or listen to it from a Bible app. Wave your streamers as you listen. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:1-21

Who is your favorite teacher? Maybe it's a classroom or Sunday School teacher, your grandma, uncle, sibling, mom, or dad! Teachers guide us and help us learn new things. God teaches us too. He guides us with His Word to know what is good and true and right.

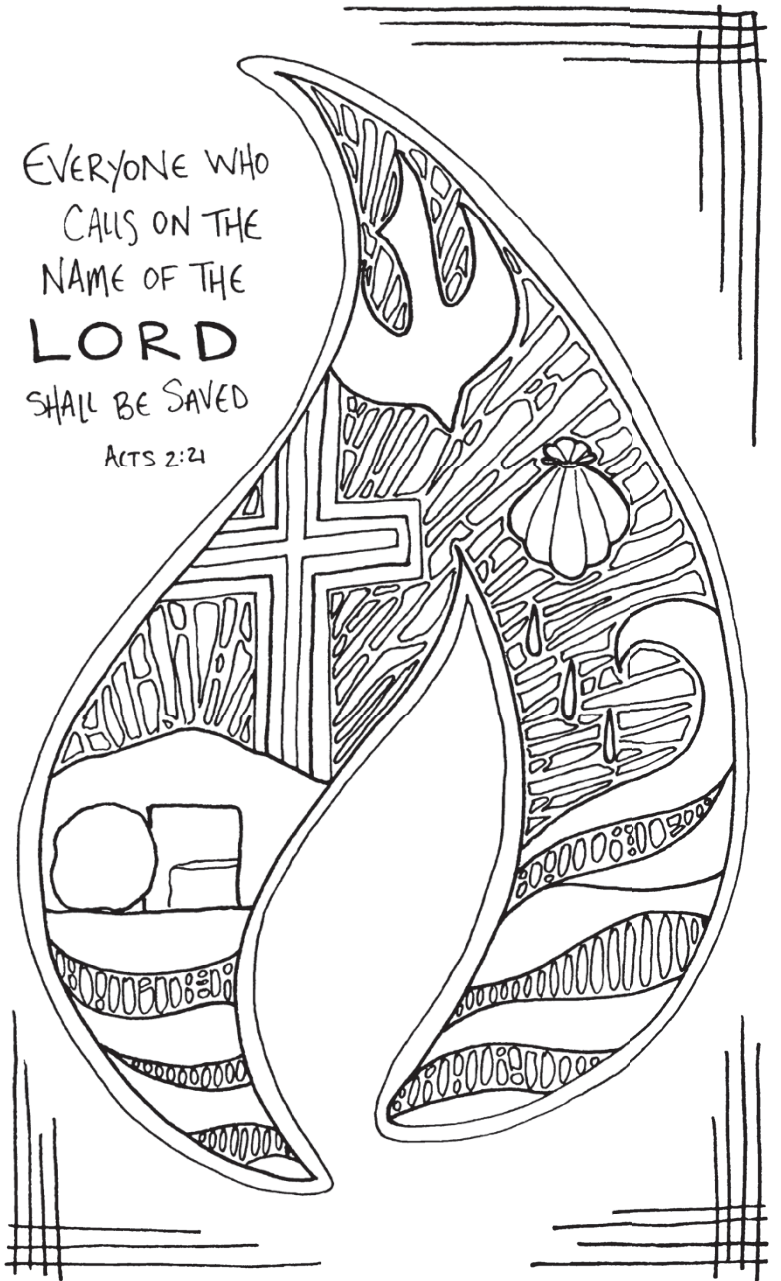
Psalms 25:1-15

Memorize:

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

Psalms 25:5

EVERYONE WHO
CALLS ON THE
NAME OF THE
LORD
SHALL BE SAVED
ACTS 2:21



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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.

