

# *Walking Together in the Word*

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for October 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

September 30–October 5, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 6.*

**Proper 22**

## The Gospel: Mark 10:2–16

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 “What did Moses command you?” he replied. 4 They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

5 “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. 6 “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

10 When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. 11 He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. 12 And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

## Devotion on the Gospel

Oh, those disciples—full of pride, full of arrogance. In their self-importance they thought they knew best. They thought they needed to protect the Savior. They were worried about something they have no business worrying about!

People were bringing little children to Jesus so they could receive a blessing.. But the disciples rebuked them. They scolded those parents. They yelled at those children. “Get these kids out of here! Jesus doesn’t have time for you!” They thought they had to protect Jesus from those babies and their mothers. And Jesus gets indignant, frustrated, disappointed with His disciples. “You let those children come to me! Don’t get in the way! Don’t stop them! For to such as these belongs the kingdom of God.”

We too sometimes have a problem with pride and arrogance. We don’t always have the faith of a child that Jesus holds up as an example to us all. We sometimes think that faith has everything to do with facts—things we can see and evaluate and measure. And we’ve seen so much of life and we’ve been tricked a time or two, and so we wonder sometimes what you can believe anymore.

But God calls us to faith—even a simple, childlike faith. And He beckons: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.” He invites each one of us. “Little children” He calls us. Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. And He calls us to become like a little child in our faith.

A little child. That’s what you are. That’s what I am. That’s what we are called to be: children of God with a child-like faith.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Why do you think the disciples rebuked those who came to Jesus for a blessing?*

*Why must we become “like a child” to receive the kingdom of God?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What unique relationship is established between man and woman? How is this relationship different from that between man and other creatures?*

*Verse to Remember: Genesis 2:24*

*What does the emphasis on "oneness" tell us about the marriage relationship?*

*Read Psalm 8. The writer of Hebrews applies what the psalmist says about mankind to Jesus. For what purpose was the Son made "lower than the angels?"*

*What did Jesus' sacrifice on the cross do for us according to Hebrews 2:11?*

## The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:18-25

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,  
"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

## The Epistle: Hebrews 2:1-13

2 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
a son of man that you care for him?"

7 You made them a little lower than the angels;  
you crowned them with glory and honor

8 and put everything under their feet."

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them.

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. 12 He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises."

13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

## The Psalm: Psalm 128

- Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
who walk in obedience to him.
- 2 You will eat the fruit of your labor;  
blessings and prosperity will be yours.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.
- 4 Yes, this will be the blessing  
for the man who fears the Lord.
- 5 May the Lord bless you from Zion;  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.
- 6 May you live to see your children's children—  
peace be on Israel.



## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Ponder Martin Luther's words regarding Psalm 128: "This is a psalm of comfort in which the estate of marriage is splendidly praised. Marriage partners are given this great comfort: They should not look only at the trouble, work, discouragement, and discomfort they feel and experience in marriage, but rather the gracious will of God toward them, that their station and life are a gracious creation of God and are blessed by Him. Therefore marriage is dear to Him, and He gives it much more happiness and blessing than discomfort, if one only believes and adapts oneself to marriage and faithfully remains within it."*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*This beloved hymn  
confesses that Jesus,  
who gave His life to  
save us, loves us  
"every day the same."  
How does this fact  
give you peace and  
comfort in a world of  
uncertainty and fear?*

## The Hymn: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb    *LSB 740*

I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

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# Faith + Life Connections

Have you heard, “You’re too young to do this”? Hearing that can make you feel left out. It might make you feel unimportant. But Jesus thinks you are very important! He said, “Let the little children come to Me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” You are special to God!

God created so many amazing things—stars, planets, mountains, trees, flowers, and all kinds of animals. But do you know what His greatest creation was? Man and woman. He made them to be husband and wife, perfect for one another. What a gift of love! *Genesis 2:18-25*

How amazing it is that Jesus, who is God, came down to heaven and became a human! Can you imagine? Why would He do that? It’s because He loves us. Jesus became a man so He could die for our sins and give us eternal life! *Hebrews 2:1-13*

**Memorize:**  
That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.  
*Genesis 2:24*

because  
He  
himself has  
Suffered  
when  
Tempted,  
He  
is able to  
HELP  
those who  
are being  
Tempted  
*Hebrews 2:18 K&J21*



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**Prayer for the Week**  
Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus’ name we pray.  
Amen.





# Walking Together in the Word

October 7–October 12, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 13.*

**Proper 23**

## The Gospel: Mark 10:17–22

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

## Devotion on the Gospel

The rich young man had a burning question, and it is kind of a strange one when you think about it. “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Notice what’s strange about that question? There is nothing you really can do to gain an inheritance. You simply wait until your father dies. You can’t change the inheritance. It’s not based on how hard you work, or what you do, or what you don’t do. It’s the decision of the person giving their belongings to you. And it only happens when that person finally dies.

This man is using the word “inherit,” but what he really means is “earn.” He thinks there is something he can do. And even though he’s already done a lot, he knows somehow something is missing. There’s got to be something I can do, something that will push me across the goal line to eternal life. What must I do?

Jesus looked at the man and loved him. And then told him a hard truth: sell all your stuff. Jesus was putting His finger on the man’s problem—his idolatry. His wealth was his god. It was first in his life. And of course Jesus knew it.

What’s your idol? What’s your self-made god? It’s not just the rich young man. We have them too, don’t we? And Jesus looks at us and loves us. He calls us to repentance and offers His forgiveness—not because we’ve earned it or deserve it, but because He loves us.

Jesus gives us an inheritance. It isn’t earned. It isn’t deserved. We can only receive that inheritance by faith. We can only come to eternal life as a gift. And we only receive it when the one who gives it dies. Jesus does all of that for us.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Review the 10 Commandments from Exodus 20 or from Luther’s Small Catechism. What commandment did the rich young man break?*

*What is Jesus trying to accomplish with the demand that He gives to the man in Mark 10:21?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*List the injustices and charges that Amos speaks against the rich and powerful of Israel. What would be the result of their exploiting the poor for their own gain?*

*How does the prophecy of Amos speak to our world and society today?*

*Which two words does the author of Hebrews use to pinpoint the reason why the Israelites were not allowed to enter the Promised Land? (see vv. 18 and 19)*

*God's call to faith and obedience in this text is urgent. Is it no less urgent now? Why or why not?*

## The Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

6 Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire;  
it will devour them,  
and Bethel will have no one to quench it.  
7 There are those who turn justice into bitterness  
and cast righteousness to the ground.  
10 There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court  
and detest the one who tells the truth.  
11 You levy a straw tax on the poor  
and impose a tax on their grain.  
Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,  
you will not live in them;  
though you have planted lush vineyards,  
you will not drink their wine.  
12 For I know how many are your offenses  
and how great your sins.  
There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes  
and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.  
13 Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,  
for the times are evil.  
14 Seek good, not evil,  
that you may live.  
Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,  
just as you say he is.  
15 Hate evil, love good;  
maintain justice in the courts.  
Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy  
on the remnant of Joseph.

## The Epistle: Hebrews 3:12-19

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. 15 As has just been said:  
"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts  
as you did in the rebellion."  
16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

## The Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

12 Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

13 Relent, Lord! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants.

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

16 May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
your splendor to their children.

17 May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:  
Psalm 90:12

*Read through the psalm and ponder how this prayer of Moses is answered in Jesus Christ. List the ways that Christ is the fulfillment of this prayer.*

*During this week, pray these verses of Psalm 90.*



## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*List the ways in which the hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt, describes the love of Jesus. What does this love do? How does this love act?*

## The Hymn: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

LSB 683

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me  
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
Unite my thankful heart to Thee,  
And reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, Thine alone I am;  
Be Thou alone my constant flame.

O grant that nothing in my soul  
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;  
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,  
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove;  
My ev'ry act, word, thought be love.

This love unwearied I pursue  
And dauntlessly to Thee aspire.  
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew,  
Burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!  
And day and night, be all my care  
To guard this sacred treasure there.

In suff'ring be Thy love my peace,  
In weakness be Thy love my pow'r;  
And when the storms of life shall cease,  
O Jesus, in that final hour,  
Be Thou my rod and staff and guide,  
And draw me safely to Thy side!

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# Faith + Life Connections

The young man in today's Bible reading thought he could do something to earn eternal life. But we can't earn our salvation. We can't live a perfect life. We need Jesus to forgive and save us. The young man had another problem—he loved money more than God. God wants us to put Him first. Why? He loves us, cares for us, and

How does God want us to treat other people? God wants us to be giving and loving to others, especially those who don't have as much as we have. God's love and care for us makes us want to love and care for others!

*Amos 5:6-7, 10-15*

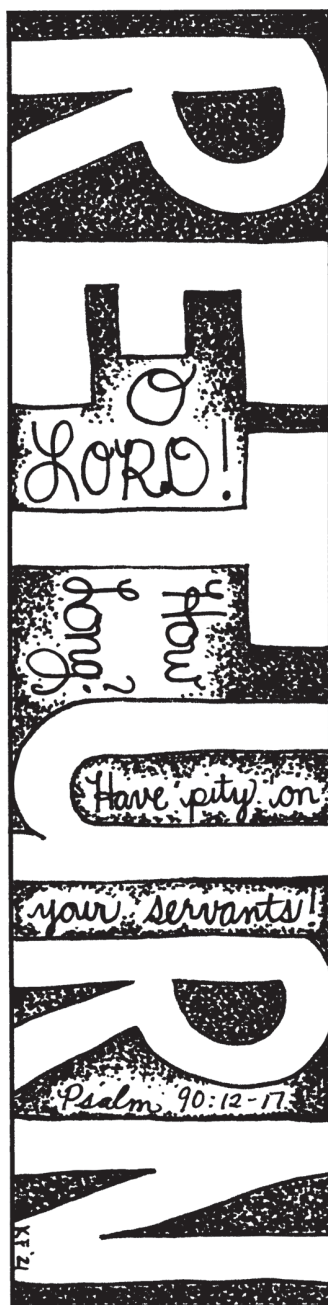
Did you know that when you talk about your faith with your friends and family, you are encouraging them to stay close to God? God wants us to encourage one another to obey God and keep believing in Him. That's why He gave us the Church!

*Hebrews 3:12-19*

**Memorize:**

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*Psalm 90:12*



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**Prayer for the Week**

Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure. In Your name we pray. Amen.



# Walking Together in the Word

October 14–October 19, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 20.*

## Proper 24

### The Gospel: Mark 10:23–31

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

### Devotion on the Gospel

Jesus lovingly tried to call a rich young man to repentance: “Go, sell all you have. Then come follow me.” And the man went away sad because he had great wealth.

And Jesus’ disciples were amazed. Here was a man who was successful and wealthy, certainly a sign of God’s favor, and yet he walked away from Jesus. “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God,” Jesus says.

And Jesus’ disciples are even more amazed. “Oh Lord, who then can be saved?” If even the ones God blesses with riches can’t enter the kingdom, then what about poor little old me? I struggle every day. I can’t keep it together. I can’t handle my problems. I’m a mess. I’m a sinner.

Maybe that’s what Jesus is looking for. The disciples need Him. We need Him. Our own efforts or works aren’t going to cut it. On our own we are lost. On our own salvation is impossible.

“With man it is impossible,” Jesus says. “But not with God. All things are possible with God.” In fact, it’s not just possible, it is a reality in Jesus Christ—Jesus who humbled Himself on the cross. He was despised and rejected—stricken, smitten, and afflicted. He was crushed for our iniquities. He was pierced for our transgressions. He who was first became last, and servant of all, at the cross.

This is how God does the impossible. This is how God gets the rich and the poor and you and me through the eye of the needle into the kingdom of heaven—through the cross. And through His death we are brought to life—eternal life. Seems impossible, but it isn’t. Because all things are possible with God.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What might make it difficult for rich people to enter the kingdom of God?*

*What is the miracle that God can perform in all people?*



## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*As opposed to popular opinion, the Bible is clear that greater wealth does not bring satisfaction. What can be the result from the love money and wealth?*

*What is it that will allow a man to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all his toil?*

*What does the writer of Hebrews mean when he says that "the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword?" (see vv. 12-13)*

*Look ahead to verses 14-16. How does knowing that God's own High Priest (Jesus) was tempted in every way, just as we are, enable us to approach God's throne of grace with confidence?*

## The Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Whoever loves money never has enough;

whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?

12 The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

13 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners, 14 or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit.

15 Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

16 This too is a grievous evil: As everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain, since they toil for the wind?

17 All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.

18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. 20 They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

## The Epistle: Hebrews 4:1-13

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. 3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

"So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works." 5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.



## The Psalm: Psalm 119:9-16

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

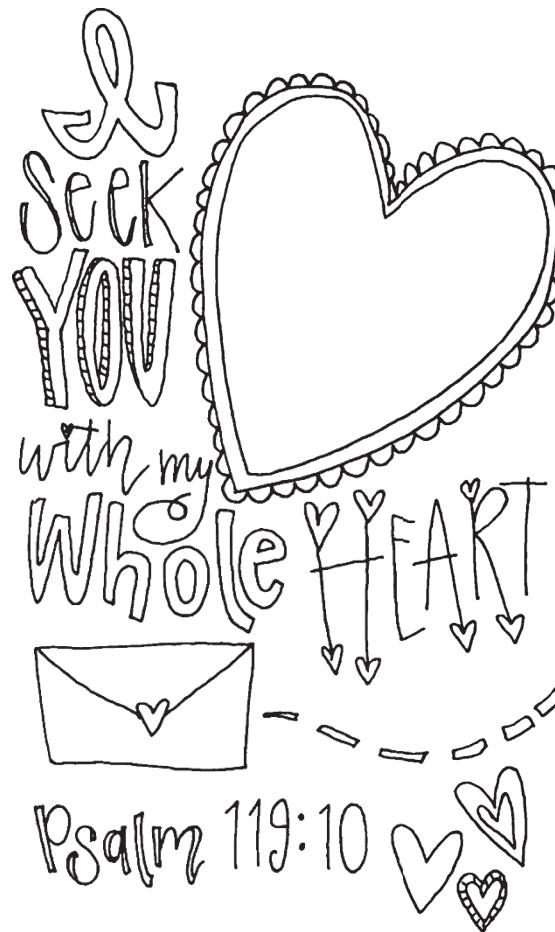
as one rejoices in great riches.

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

Verse to Remember:  
Psalm 119:10

The psalmist declares, "I seek you (God) with all my heart." How can the psalmist's devotion to his God and His Word inspire and encourage us?

The last three verses of this text the psalmist writes that he "rejoices" in following God's statutes, "meditates" on His precepts, and "delights" in His decrees. Is this our

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*This hymn makes a bold statement of the changed value system of the Christian life, contrasting the world and its "vaunted pleasures" against the peace and rest of having Jesus as our treasure and our soul's delight. What are some of the "vaunted pleasures" of this world? Why is Jesus always better?*

## The Hymn: What Is the World to Me

LSB 730

What is the world to me  
With all its vaunted pleasure  
When You, and You alone,  
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord,  
My soul's delight shall be;  
You are my peace, my rest.  
What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised  
And honored by the mighty  
Yet never once reflects  
That they are frail and flighty.  
But what I truly prize  
Above all things is He,  
My Jesus, He alone.  
What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth  
And all that mammon offers  
Yet never is content  
Though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good,  
Content with it I'll be:  
My Jesus is my wealth.  
What is the world to me!

What is the world to me!  
My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth,  
My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all,  
My bliss eternally.  
Once more, then, I declare:  
What is the world to me!

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# Faith + Life Connections

Jesus knows that we like things—we like toys, games, cars, money, clothes. Some people start to like those things too much. They start to think they are more important than God. Don't do that, Jesus says. Remember who is most important in your life—your heavenly Father who loves you. *Mark 10:23-31*

God has given us so many gifts to enjoy in this life—food, homes, games, bikes, musical instruments, cars, books, the list goes on and on! But we can only enjoy these things on this earth. Our real treasure is in heaven, where we will be with God forever. *Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

The writer of the book of Hebrews says that God's Word is sharper than a 2-edged sword. What does that mean? God's Word cuts through everything so nothing is hidden. God's Word uncovers our sinful heart and shows us our need for a Savior. *Hebrews 4:1-13*

**Memorize:**  
I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.  
*Psalm 119:10*



LORD,  
Hear my  
prayer,

Amen.

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

**Prayer for the Week**  
O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# Walking Together in the Word

October 21–October 26, 2024

*This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 27.*

## Reformation

### The Gospel: John 8:31–36

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What kind of freedom was Jesus promising here? (see also Romans 6:15–18)*

### Devotion on the Gospel

The truth is what the Reformation was all about. The church in Martin Luther’s day was ignoring parts of the truth of God’s Word. They began to teach things and confess things that were not based on the truth of the Word of God. And so the truth was being distorted, the truth was being ignored, and they were even trying to change what was true. And because of that, it brought God’s people pain and suffering and hurt.

But then God led Martin Luther to discover the whole truth of God’s Word. He began to understand the Gospel. He began to understand that we are not saved by what we do or how we live. The only thing that brings salvation to us is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross—the fact that the Son of God’s blood was shed for you and for me.

It is Christ who reaches into our lives and pulls us out of the depths of sin and death and washes us clean with His grace and forgiveness so that we might have life. He’s the One who does it. He’s the One who covers our sins, who gives His grace, who declares us holy before God the Father. It is in Christ alone that we are saved.

And so salvation is not found in our own strength or our own effort or our own good works, but only in the name of Jesus Christ—only through His strength, through His effort, through His work. That’s the truth! And that truth does not bring pain, but joy. That truth does not produce suffering, but peace. That truth does not hurt, it heals. And so we hold on to that truth—the truth of the Gospel that gives joy, peace, and healing.

*What is the point of Jesus’ comparison of a slave and a son?*

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Why is this reading that tells of angel messengers sharing the eternal Gospel an appropriate reading for Reformation Day?

How may we all see ourselves as an "angel" with the Gospel with Good News for all?

How do the words righteousness, redemption, and atonement define what Christ did for us?

Verse to Remember:  
Romans 3:23-24

Martin Luther added the word alone after the word faith in his reading of Romans 3:28 and sola fide ("by faith alone") became a chief principle of the Reformation. Why is this principle so very important to us as Christians?

### The First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

*But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

### The Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

## The Psalm: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
3 though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.  
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.  
5 God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.  
6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.  
7 The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
8 Come and see what the Lord has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.  
9 He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
11 The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*God breaks through the chaos and turmoil of this world: "Be still, and know that I am God." (verse 10). How does this declaration comfort and strengthen you?*

*Martin Luther's hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, is based on this psalm. Take time to read or sing and meditate on this hymn this week (LSB 656).*



## Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*In the Bible, the word "rock" often conveys strength and security. Read Psalm 18:2; 31:3; and 95:1. To whom does the rock refer? Why do you think the psalmists and the hymn writer use this image?*

## The Hymn: Built on the Rock    *LSB 645*

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands,  
All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above  
Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones,  
Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice  
And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know My own; My own know Me.  
You, not the world, My face shall see.

My peace I leave with you. Amen."  
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# Faith + Life Connections

We all love freedom, don't we? We love to be free to do what we want, when we want to. But Jesus says that everyone who sins is a slave—a slave to sin. Our sinful self makes us want to do what is wrong. Who can save us from our sinful selves? Jesus! Jesus has set us free to love Him and follow His teachings.

*John 8:31-36*

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus. It tells how Jesus died and rose to forgive our sins. Who is the Gospel message for? Everyone! Every nation, tribe, language, and people! Share the Good News!

*Revelation 14:6-7*

We might think we're pretty good. We might even think we're better than others. But the Bible tells us that *all* have sinned. We *all* need the forgiveness that Jesus has won for us on the cross!

*Romans 3:19-28*

Memorize:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:24-25



KateMeech

I thank You, my  
Heavenly Father,  
through  
Jesus Christ,  
Your dear Son  
...



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace. Amen.

