

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for February 2026

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 2–February 7, 2026

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, February 8.

Epiphany 5

The Gospel: Matthew 5:13–20

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Devotion on the Gospel

Salt and light. That’s what Jesus calls you and me in the Sermon on the Mount. Last week Jesus showed us in the Beatitudes that we are uniquely blessed. Oh, how blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. God blesses us in unique ways. Christian people are very different from the world.

But when Jesus says that not only are we blessed, but we are also salt and light, He is showing that not only are we different, but our uniqueness is meant to make a difference in our world. It’s one thing to be different. It’s another thing to make a difference.

And what does the salt of the earth share with a spiritually hurting world? What does the light of the world shine on this sinful and corrupt place? There’s only one thing: Jesus. Jesus who died and who was raised. Jesus who loves you and forgives you. Jesus who accepts you just as you are. Jesus who gives grace to you, shares His mercy with you, gives life to you. That’s what the salt of the earth shares. That’s what the light of the world shares.

And that is what you are. You are salt! You are light! By His grace, God makes you and me to be salt and light. By His forgiveness He gives you and me a new heart to share His love. In His glory He calls you and me to be a shaker of salt and a beacon of light of the Good News that saves.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Verse to Remember:
Matthew 5:16*

*Why should we “let
our light shine
before others”?*

*In what ways do
Christians act
differently than
others in the world?
How does this point
to Christ?*

*Remember the song
“This Little Light of
Mine, I’m Gonna Let
It Shine”? Sing it!*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

God's people were going through the motions of a "good work"—fasting—but their actions were empty, without meaning or purpose. Instead, God desires that we do good that really matters, such as feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

What can you do this week to be light and show love to God and others?

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?'
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

You will call,
and the Lord will
answer

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. 6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

The Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9

Praise the Lord.

- Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who find great delight in his commands.
2 Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.
5 Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.
7 They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
9 They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn will be lifted high in honor.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

It wasn't Paul's persuasive words or wit that created faith in people.

What is it that creates faith in people's hearts as they hear God's Word?

How will those who "find great delight in His (God's) commands" be blessed?

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

*We know how we
should live and act,
but we can't do it on
our own.*

*Look for, and
underline words and
phrases that show
how Jesus helps us to
love and serve others.*

The Hymn: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill *LSB 698*

May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.

So may we join Thy name to bless,
Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,
From sin and strife to flee.
One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee.

Spirit of life, of love and peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.

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Unite our
hearts, our
joy
increase

Faith + Life Connections

As you read the Gospel again, enjoy some popcorn—both salted and unsalted. Which tastes better? Salt helps some foods taste better. Talk about how we can positively affect the world with our faith. How do God's blessings to us prepare us to go and be salt and light to the world?

Matthew 5:13–20

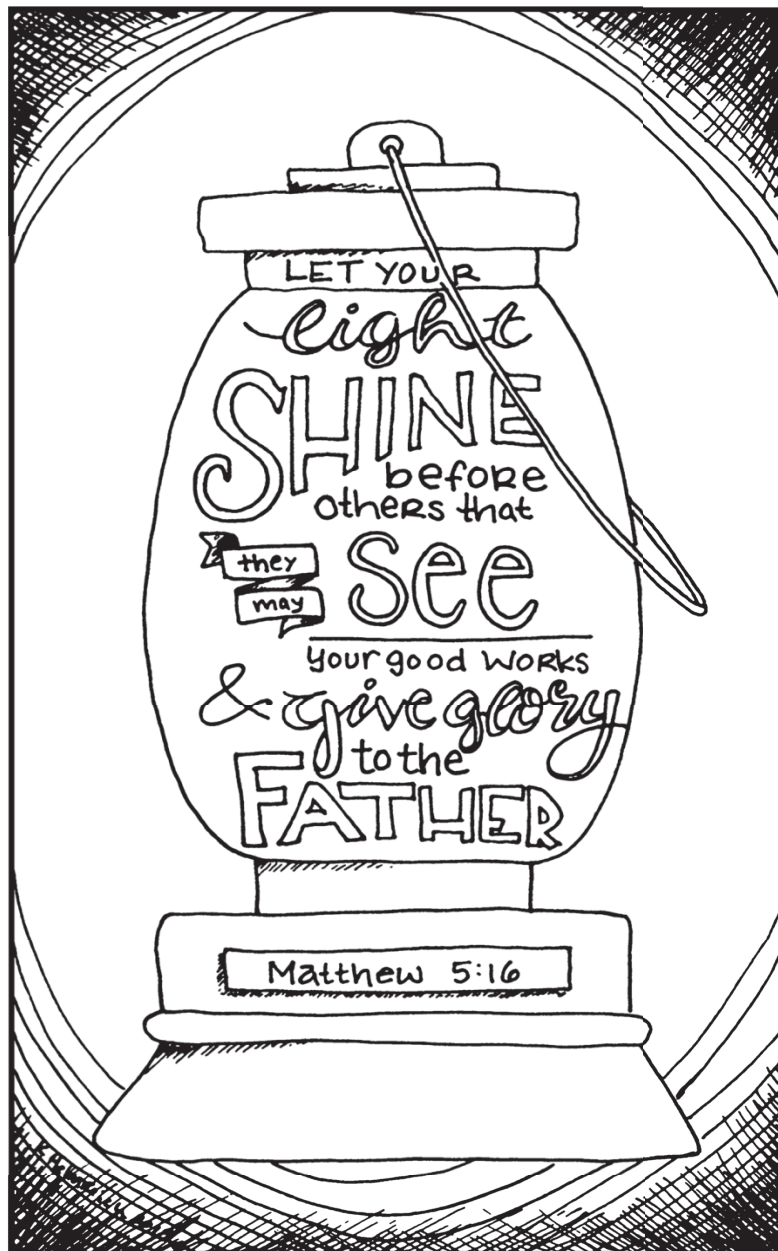
God wants His people to be a light to the world, shining the light of His love to others. How can you do that this week? Donate food to a food pantry or help at one? Care for someone older or younger than you? Take time to visit and listen to a friend?

Isaiah 58:3–9a

It's hard to always do God's will, isn't it? Children don't always like obeying their parents. Adults don't always like serving others. We need God's help to do what's right! Pray for God to help. He will help, and give us joy too!

LSB Hymn 698

Verse to Remember:
"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

February 9–February 14, 2026

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, February 15.

Transfiguration

The Gospel: Matthew 17:1–9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Devotion on the Gospel

In the Bible, clouds have significant meaning, because usually, a cloud is much more than just a cloud. Clouds are symbols of God’s presence. Remember how God spoke with Moses? Once from a burning bush, but after that, it was always through a cloud. There was also the cloud that descended on the Tabernacle as the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. It was the cloud of God’s presence. God’s presence was also made known by that pillar or cloud that led those people through the desert.

Here in Matthew 17, once again God visits in a cloud. While Jesus was praying with Peter, James, and John on the mountain, a cloud descended—a cloud filled with the presence of God. And Jesus was transfigured right before the disciples’ eyes. He began to glow with the glory of God. No wonder the disciples were filled with awe and wonder and terror. They were left shocked and shaking on the ground because they were in the presence of Almighty God!

But please notice, when this holy, supernatural, power-filled Christ sees the fear of His disciples, He touches them and says, “Don’t be afraid.” And they look up and see only Jesus. Just Jesus, the friend and teacher they loved. The Messiah is their personal friend. The glorified God is the One they know. The Almighty God is their companion.

What a comforting thought that the Almighty God, the Maker of the universe, loves us so much that He would stoop down to us to be our friend, to be our companion. Our God is all powerful, mighty, glorious, and yet He’s never far off. He’s with us always. That all-powerful, almighty, all-glorious God—that God loves you and me. He walks with us in all that we do. He is our companion. The Almighty God is our friend.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Where else in Scripture have you heard these words that God the Father proclaimed about Jesus? See Matthew 3:13–17.

How has God’s Word lovingly touched you when you were afraid?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

God made a covenant with His people, but He already knew they would not be able to keep it. What do you think the blood represented, or pointed toward? See Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:11-28.

The Second Reading: Exodus 24:8-18

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." 9 Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up 10 and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. 11 But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. 12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction." 13 Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. 14 He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them." 15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, 16 and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. 17 To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. 18 Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

The Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

*Verse to Remember:
2 Peter 1:21*

“This is my Son, whom I love; with
Him I am well pleased.”

The Psalm: Psalm 2:6-12

"I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."

7 I will proclaim the Lord's decree:

He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have become your father.

8 Ask me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You will break them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

10 Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.

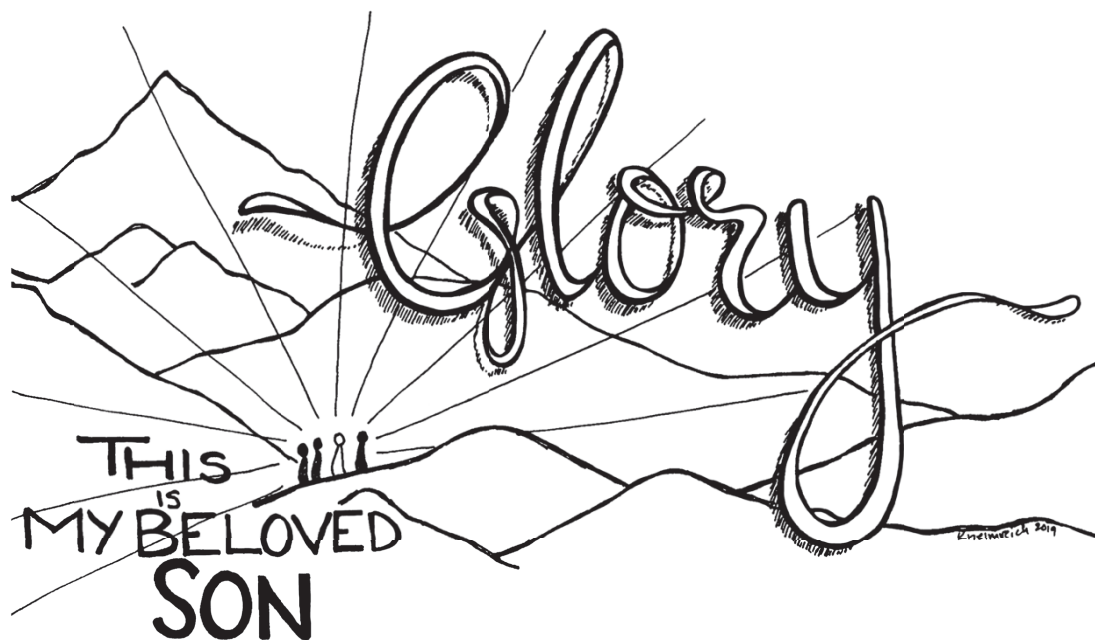
12 Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and your way will lead to your destruction,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This psalm both announces the kingship of David over Israel, and also points forward to the coming Messiah, Jesus, who would be a descendant of David.

How do we "take refuge" in the Lord?



Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

It's hard to imagine what the disciples experienced when Jesus transfigured before their eyes. But one day, we will also see Jesus in all His glory with our own eyes!

What do you imagine that will be like?

The Hymn: O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair *LSB 413*

O wondrous type! O vision fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And from the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

O Father, with the eternal Son
And Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.

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We pray Thee, bring us
by Thy grace
To see Thy glory
face to face.

Faith + Life Connections

Go on an evening walk with a flashlight, play flashlight tag together, or light a candle in a darkened room. See how the light illuminates the darkness. Now imagine Jesus bright white and dazzling, as He displayed His divine glory. Jesus is the light that came into the world to save us.

Matthew 17:1-9

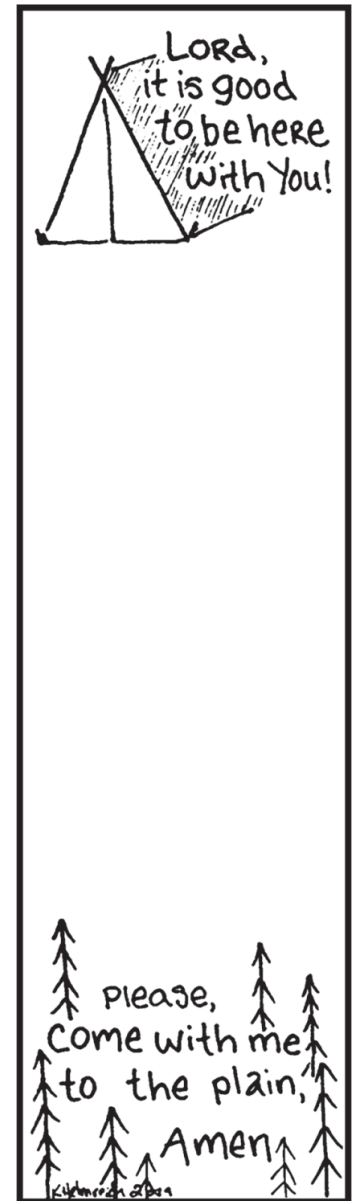
Think about how important it is to have an “eye-witness” of an event. Whether it’s a crime or something incredible that’s happened, people are more likely to believe someone who has seen it first-hand. Peter saw Jesus’ glory first-hand. He also saw Jesus risen from the dead and alive—so did more than 500 others (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

2 Peter 1:16-21

There aren’t many places in this world we can go to for the truth. But we can trust that God’s Word is truth.

2 Peter 1:16-21

Verse to Remember: “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:21



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Prayer for the Week

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

February 16–February 21, 2026

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, February 22.

Lent 1

The Gospel: Matthew 4:1–11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you,

and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Devotion on the Gospel

Temptation has an enemy. In fact, the greatest enemy of temptation is three little words. Did you hear them in Matthew’s Gospel? Three little words: “It is written.”

That is the defense that Jesus used repeatedly against the devil. The devil tries to tempt Him. Jesus says, “It is written.” The devil tries again. Jesus again says, “It is written.” The devil tries a third time! A third time, Jesus says, “It is written!”

Three little words can take down that devil. Jesus said it. We can say it too! Devil, you cannot stand against these words: It is written. When we know and believe the Word of God, we have all that we need.

Remember what St. John wrote? Near the end of his Gospel, John wrote: “These things have been written so that you may know that Jesus is the Christ and that by believing in Him you may have life in His name” (John 20:31).

It is written! The Gospel is clear. It is rock solid. It is sure. It is certain. And it is written so that we might believe and it is written that we might have life. And with those three little words, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can resist the devil’s evil temptations.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Does this event remind you of another wilderness experience? See Deuteronomy 8:1-5. Jesus met the test that the Israelites had failed.

When we are tempted, we can go to God’s Word for strength to overcome temptation. Take a few minutes to choose several verses that you can turn to in times of temptation. Mark them in your Bible.

*Suggestions:
1 Corinthians 10:13;
Hebrews 4:14-16*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The first temptation led to the first sin. Look back to the Gospel and compare the way Jesus responded to the tempter with the way Eve responded.

Eve added to God's Word ("you must not touch it"), then yielded to the temptation to doubt God's loving will for the people He created.

Do we ever try to add to God's Word?

Do we ever doubt God's loving will for us?

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"

16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

The Epistle: Romans 5:12-19

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

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

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7

Blessed is the one

whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night

your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you

and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you

while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.

7 You are my hiding place;

you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Have you heard people say, "People are naturally good"? How do these verses expose the falseness of that statement?

But God did not leave us hopeless. What did God do for sinful humanity?

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 32:5*

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

Look online for "He Will Hold Me Fast" by Keith and Kristin Getty and listen to this song of comfort.

Your Savior loves you. He will never let you go.

The Hymn: He Will Hold Me Fast—*Getty*

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

CCLI Song # 7016161

Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker

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For
my
Savior
loves
me
so

Faith + Life Connections

Think and talk about what it means to be *tempted*. Look up the definition in a dictionary. What are some things or situations that tempt you? What do you do when you are tempted to do something you know is wrong? Walk away? Read the Bible? Pray? God promises to help us resist when we are tempted.

Matthew 4:1-11

Read the account of man's fall into sin from a Bible storybook. Then read about Jesus' death and resurrection. Adam brought sin and death into the world. Christ brought forgiveness and new life.

Genesis 3:1-21

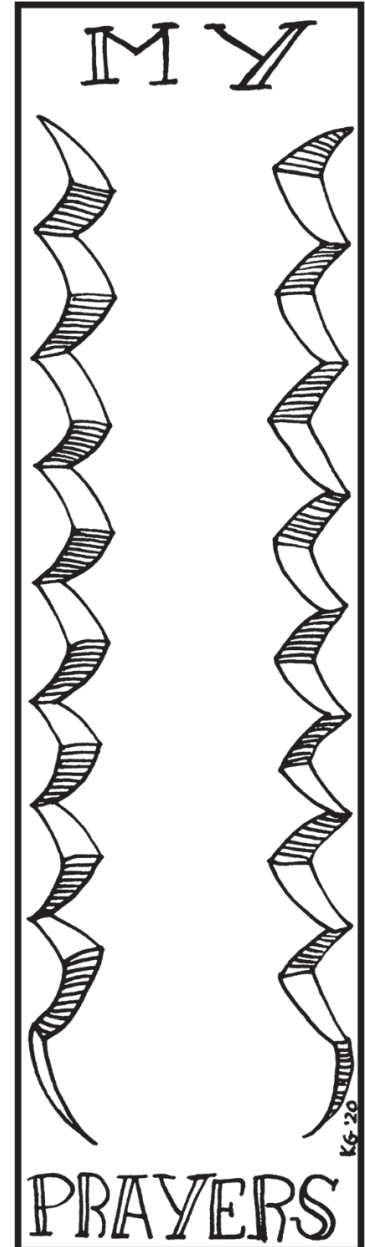
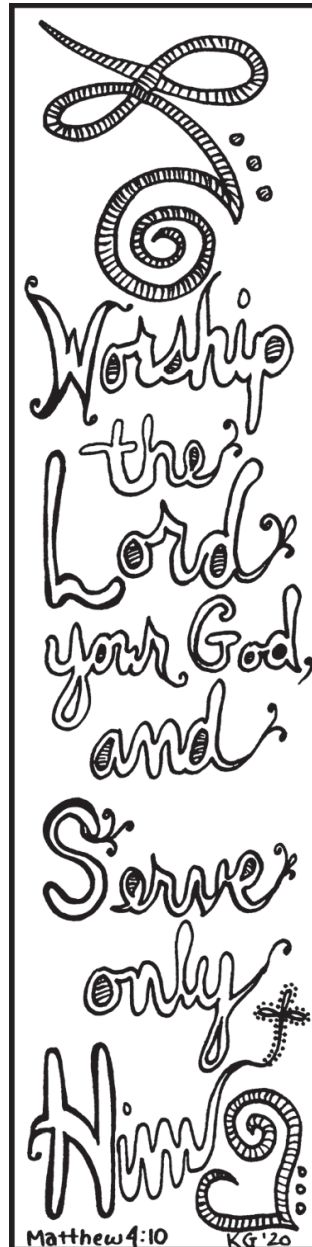
There is another familiar song that tells of God's great love for us in our Savior, Jesus. Sing "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Your Savior loves you. He died and rose for you. And He will come again to take you home to be with Him.

Hymn: He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse to Remember

"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin."

Psalm 32:5



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

February 23–February 28, 2026

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 1.

Lent 2

The Gospel: John 3:1–17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” 3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” 4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” 9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. 10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 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.

Devotion on the Gospel

A little time alone with Jesus changed Nicodemus forever. Nicodemus was curious about Jesus, interested in what He had to say, and had some questions that only Jesus could answer. But Nicodemus was a Pharisee! Pharisees couldn’t just go talk to Jesus. So Nicodemus sneaks over at night to talk to Jesus alone. And as Jesus is speaking, the Spirit is working. And Jesus shares with Nicodemus the beauty that is the Gospel: “For God so loved the world...”

A little time alone with Jesus changed Nicodemus forever. Remember, it was Nicodemus and his friend Joseph who lovingly took Jesus’ dead body down from the cross and buried Him in the tomb. A little time with Jesus changed Nicodemus’s life forever.

What is wonderful is that we can see Nicodemus’s story reflected in our own story. A little time with Jesus can change a life forever. Yours too, right? The Holy Spirit came to you through Holy Baptism—that moment when Jesus changed you forever. And the voice of the Savior spoke: 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.

Just a little time with Jesus and people are changed. Just a little time at the communion rail, just a little time in the Word, just a little time in worship, just a little time in Bible class. Just a little time with Him, and we are changed forever.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

There is so much to meditate on in these verses! Baptism; spiritual renewal; new life; the connection between Numbers 21:4-9 and the reference to Jesus’ death on the cross; the “Gospel in a nutshell.”

Read through this passage several times, each time focusing on a different aspect of Jesus’ love for you.

How has Jesus changed your life?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What are the promises that God gave to Abram in these verses? Which of these promises is for you as well?

We can't be saved by obeying the law. We are saved by faith in the promise—the promise (and fulfillment) of a Savior.

What other verses talk about the righteousness we receive by faith alone?

See Ephesians 2:8-9 and John 6:40.

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

The Epistle: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. 3 What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

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 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 121:1-2*

1 lift up my eyes to the mountains—

where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,

the Maker of heaven and earth.

*Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions*

Underline the verses that talk about what God has done for you. It's almost all of them, isn't it? Say a prayer of thanks for all that God has done, and continues to do for you, His beloved child.

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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God loved
the world
so that
He gave
His
only Son

Faith + Life Connections

It is one of the most well-known and loved verses of the Bible: John 3:16. This verse simply and clearly tells about God's love for us in Jesus. Write this verse on several red paper hearts. Then put them where people can find them—at the library, the grocery store, the gym. Share the love of Jesus!

John 3:1-17

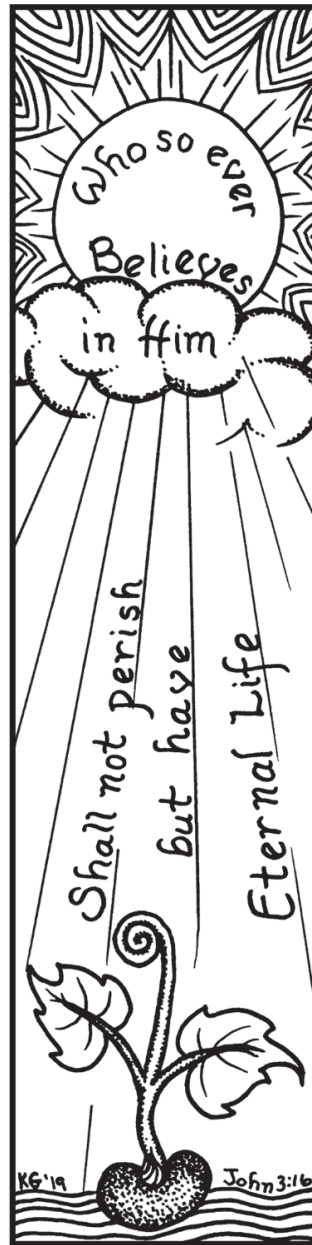
What was the last promise that you made to someone? Do you keep every promise that you make? We don't always keep our promises, but God does! He promised Abram that all nations would be blessed through him—God kept His promise in Jesus!

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 121 is a beautiful psalm of comfort. Use paper and art supplies or your computer to make a poster of this psalm. Display it and read it each day, thanking God for His love and care for you.

Psalms 121

Verse to Remember
"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."
Psalms 121:1-2



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Prayer for the Week

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

