

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for March 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

March 2–March 7, 2026

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

Lent 3

The Gospel: John 4:5–26

The Samaritan Woman

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What do these verses say about Jesus' love and compassion for all people?

What is the "water" that Jesus gives?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Highlight all the ways that Jesus offers to us His “living water.”

How often do we receive the living water that Christ so freely offers?

Time after time God tested His people to see if they would trust in Him to give them what they needed. Time after time they failed the test. But God had mercy on them, faithfully giving them all that they needed to live.

Do we sometime fail to trust in God for all we need? God wants us to always look to Him. He will give us what we need for this life and the spiritual water that leads to eternal life.

Devotion on the Gospel

“Give me a drink,” Jesus says. But Jews don’t talk to Samaritans. And men don’t talk to strange women. But here at the well, Jesus has something to give this woman, even as He begins by asking her for a drink.

What He has to give her is water. Not the water from the depths of Jacob’s well, but a different kind of water: “Living” water.

Living water is all the gifts He gives that quench spiritual thirst. Living water is the water that gives true spiritual life. Living water, really, is Jesus Christ Himself!

He gives that living water in the waters of Baptism. He gives living water in the bread and wine of His Supper. He gives living water in worship and Bible study and Sunday school and devotions through the sharing of His Word.

The Samaritan woman exclaims, “Give me this living water!” She didn’t understand. She thought He was talking about physical water. But we who know Jesus know better. We know that the water that Jesus offers to us is the water of life—water, in fact, that “becomes a spring of water welling up to eternal life!”

It’s that water we yearn for. It’s that water we thirst for. It’s for that water that we cry out: “Give me this living water!”

The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Water From the Rock

17 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?”

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

4 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

5 The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The Epistle: Romans 5:1-8

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 95:1-9

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

3 For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

7 for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,

8 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Some think that we need to somehow make ourselves better before we can come to church or pray to God. How does this passage correct that kind of thinking?

*Verse to Remember:
Romans 5:8*

This is a joyful psalm of thanks and praise to God our Father. Read it out loud together!

What historical event recorded in the book of Exodus is being referenced in verses 8 and 9?

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

Jesus gives us rest as we travel through this weary life. He revives us and quenches our spiritual thirst. What else does Jesus offer to us?

The Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

LSB 699

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.

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Come
unto
Me
and
rest

Faith + Life Connections

Did you know that up to 60% of the human body is water? Or that a person can survive only about 3 days without water? Water is essential for life! Even more important is the living water that Jesus gives us. Faith in Jesus as our Savior gives us new life here on earth, and eternal life with Him in heaven.

John 4:5-26

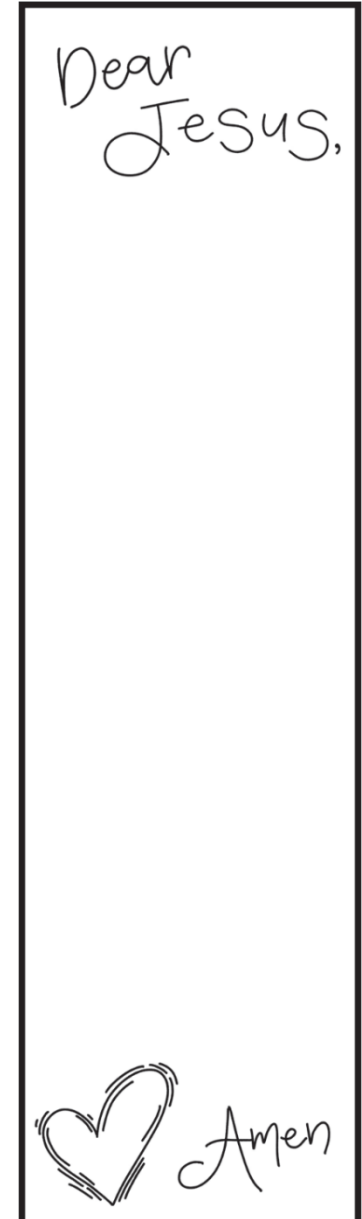
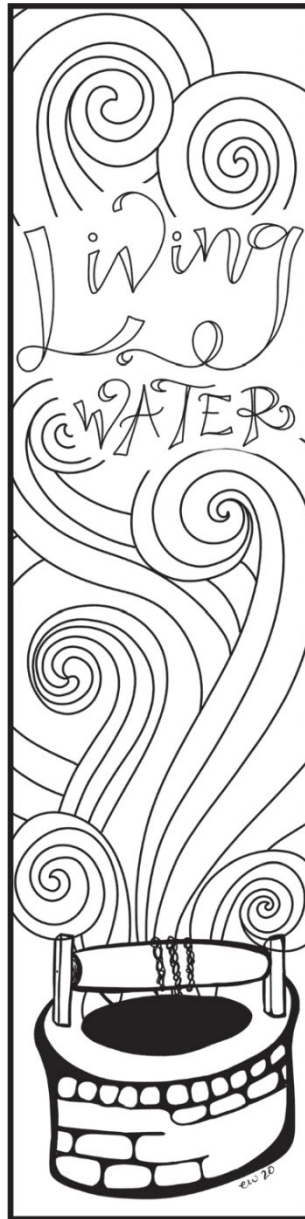
Have you ever heard a story about someone who gave his or her life for another person? It's incredible to hear those stories, isn't it? Share a story you've heard or look for one online to share. Even more incredible is the fact that Jesus gave His life for us sinners—the whole world.

Romans 5:1-8

Part of this psalm is sung in the service of Matins. Look online for "Venite Matins LSB" to find a recording of these verses set to music.

Psalms 95:1-9

Verse to Remember
But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8



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Prayer for the Week

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

March 9–March 14, 2026

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

Lent 4

The Gospel: John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. 17 Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” 38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

Devotion on the Gospel

One day, Jesus and His disciples came upon a blind man. And the disciples ask the question, “Rabbi, who sinned? This blind man or his parents?” In Jesus’ day, it was thought that if you had a disability like blindness, then somebody must have done something really bad for God to afflict you in that way. How wrong they were!

Yes, the man sinned. Everyone is a sinner. But that wasn’t why he was blind. Jesus says it was so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. And then Jesus restores his sight and says, “I am the light of the world!”

Jesus, the light of the world, opened the man’s eyes. And He opens our eyes too! He shines into our dark world of sin. He shows us that we have a God of life, a God of compassion, a God of love. He shows us the cross and we see sins paid for and forgiven. He shows us the empty tomb and we see death swallowed up in victory. He shows us heaven and a place prepared for us.

Jesus shines His light into our lives to change the way we think, the way we speak, the way we live. Jesus shines His light into our lives so the work of God is displayed in us. Jesus shines His light into our lives so that we would believe and confess that He is the light of the world.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How did Jesus heal both the physical and spiritual blindness of the man?

How is the work of God displayed in your life?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Nothing can stop
God from keeping His
promise to bring the
light of forgiveness
and life through the
Messiah.*

*What happens to
those who trust in
idols? Contrast this
with what God does
for those who put
their trust in Him.*

*Verse to Remember:
Ephesians 5:8*

*What does it mean to
“live as children of
light”?*

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

“For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.
17 But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’
will be turned back in utter shame.
18 “Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
19 Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the Lord?
20 You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”
21 It pleased the Lord
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Psalm: Psalm 142

I cry aloud to the Lord;
I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.
2 I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.
3 When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.
4 Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.
5 I cry to you, Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
6 Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
7 Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

I cry to you, Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the
living."

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

David wrote this psalm as he hid in a cave from King Saul. See 1 Samuel 22:1-2.

When David was afraid and in distress, what did he do?

God wants us to cry out to Him when we are troubled. He will hear you. He loves you.

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

This hymn is loved by many. Read through the words slowly. Which words bring you special joy, comfort, or peace?

The Hymn: Amazing Grace *LSB 744*

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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Amazing

grace

how

sweet

the

sound

Faith + Life Connections

Put on a blindfold and try to do a simple task such as washing the dishes or folding clothes. Take off the blindfold and try again. What a difference! Think how incredible it must have been for the man born blind to finally see. Then think how even more incredible it is to be healed of spiritual blindness—to come to know Jesus as your Savior!

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

How can you walk as a child of the light? Look online for the words to the hymn, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411. Listen to or read the words; then reread the Bible text.

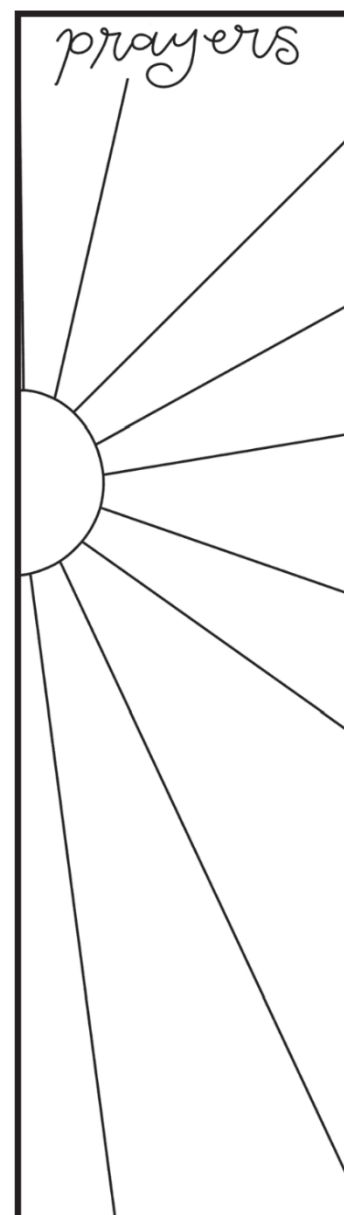
Ephesians 5:8-14

Is it ok to cry to God and tell Him when we are afraid, or angry, or exhausted? Yes! As we read the psalms, we see David pouring out his emotions to God. Why? God promises to hear, to listen, to love, to help. Cry out to Him!

Psalms 142

Verse to Remember

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”
Ephesians 5:8



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

March 16–March 21, 2026

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

Lent 5

The Gospel: John 11:17–27, 38–53

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs.

48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

51 He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
John 11:25-26

How does this narrative illustrate Jesus' compassion, His power, and His great love for people?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Look up and read
1 Corinthians
chapter 15. This
chapter is about the
resurrection of the
dead—Christ's
resurrection and our
future resurrection.
Death does not have
the last word.
"Where, O death, is
your victory?
Where, O death, is
your sting?'. . .
thanks be to God!
He gives us the
victory through our
Lord Jesus Christ"
(1 Cor. 15:55-56).*

*What is the
message God gave
to the people of
Israel—and to us—
through the vision
of the valley of dry
bones?*

Devotion on the Gospel

Most of us have been there. Standing near the grave of a loved one. The hole of emptiness in the pit of our soul. The anger that something like this could happen. The grief that just pours over us and causes those tears to fall. Jesus has been there too. Death had touched His life. Lazarus had died and His heart was broken.

But that mourning and those tears is not where this story ends. Death and the grave are not the last word. They are never the last word! Because death and the grave are no match for Jesus. "I am the resurrection and the life," He said. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." And then Jesus cries out, "Lazarus, come out!" And death is broken as Lazarus emerges from the tomb, alive.

He has broken death for us too! When He died on the cross and then rose from the grave on Easter Sunday, He broke death. He conquered death. And so he who believes in Jesus will live, even though He dies. Whoever lives and believes in Jesus will never die!

Death and the grave are not the last word. They are never the last word! Because death and the grave are no match for Jesus. He is the resurrection and the life!

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. 11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' 12 Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

The Epistle: Romans 8:1-11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

The Psalm: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

2 Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

6 I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What is the difference between those who live according to the flesh and those who live according to the Spirit?

What does it mean to live "according to the Spirit?"

Part of this psalm is quoted in the Confession and Absolution of one of our services in Lutheran Service Book (Divine Service, Setting Four).

What does this psalm teach us?

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

As you read the words of this hymn, draw simple pictures in the margin to illustrate the meaning of each verse for you.

The Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This *LSB* 543

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

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What wondrous love is this?

Faith + Life Connections

Talk with someone who has attended a funeral of a friend or loved one. Talk a little about the service: how the person felt, the Scriptures read, the hymns sung. How did God's Word give comfort? Jesus knows how we feel. He, too, mourned a friend. But Jesus has overcome death!

John 11:17-27, 38-53

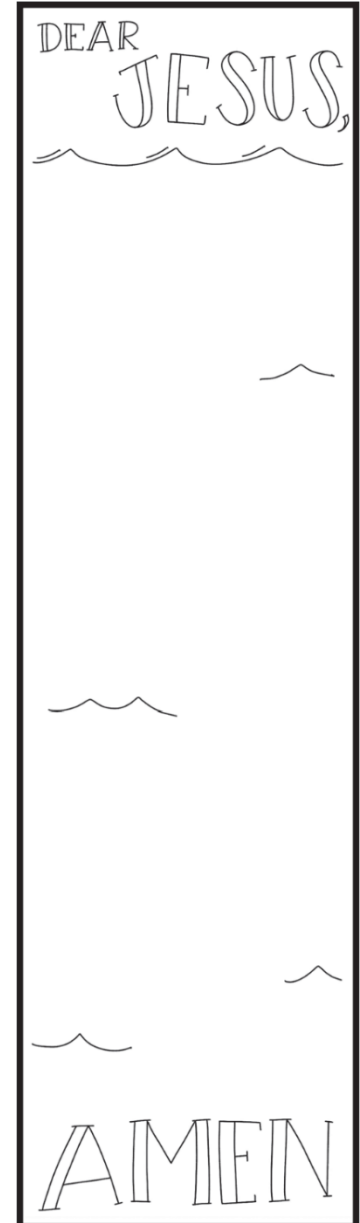
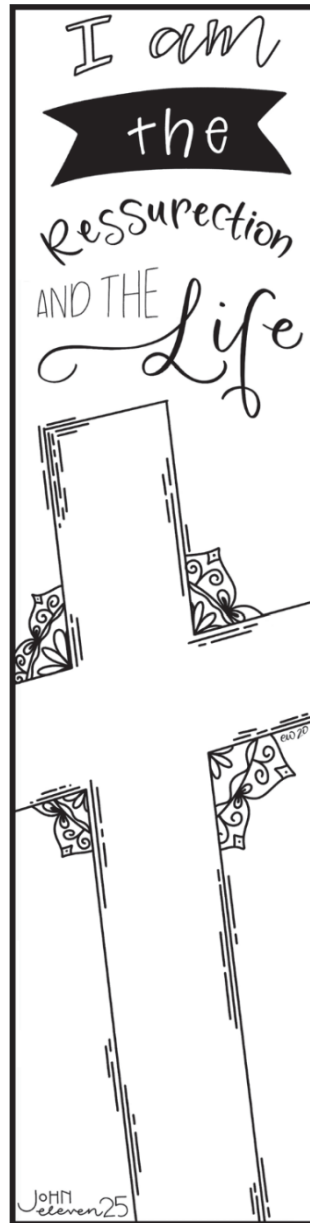
Look online for the words and music to "Dem Bones spiritual." This song refers to Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. Ezekiel was told to prophecy to the bones, "Hear the Word of the Lord!" We, too, must hear God's Word. God's Word gives life.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

If you made a list of the sins you committed this week, how long would it be? Thanks be to God that He does not keep a record of our sins! God forgives us and gives us hope.

Psalms 130

Verse to Remember
[Jesus said] "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."
John 11:25-26



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

March 23–March 28, 2026

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, March 29.

Palm Sunday

The Gospel: John 12:12–19

The Triumphal Entry

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

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

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

Devotion on the Gospel

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

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

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

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

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

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

From what do you think the crowd was shouting to be saved? From what did Jesus come to save us?

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

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Isaiah chapter 50 contrasts the disobedience of the people of Israel with the obedience of the Servant, who is described in these verses. Who is the Servant, whom these verses are describing? See Matthew 27:27-31.

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

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

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

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He awakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

5 The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

6 I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

8 He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!

9 It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.

The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Psalm: Psalm 118:19-29

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

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

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

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

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

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

The Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty —LSB 441

As you meditate on the words of this song, pray a prayer of thanks our Savior, Jesus, who willingly went to the cross so that we can live.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

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Ride
on, ride
on in
majesty



Faith + Life Connections

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

John 12:12-19

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

Philippians 2:5-11

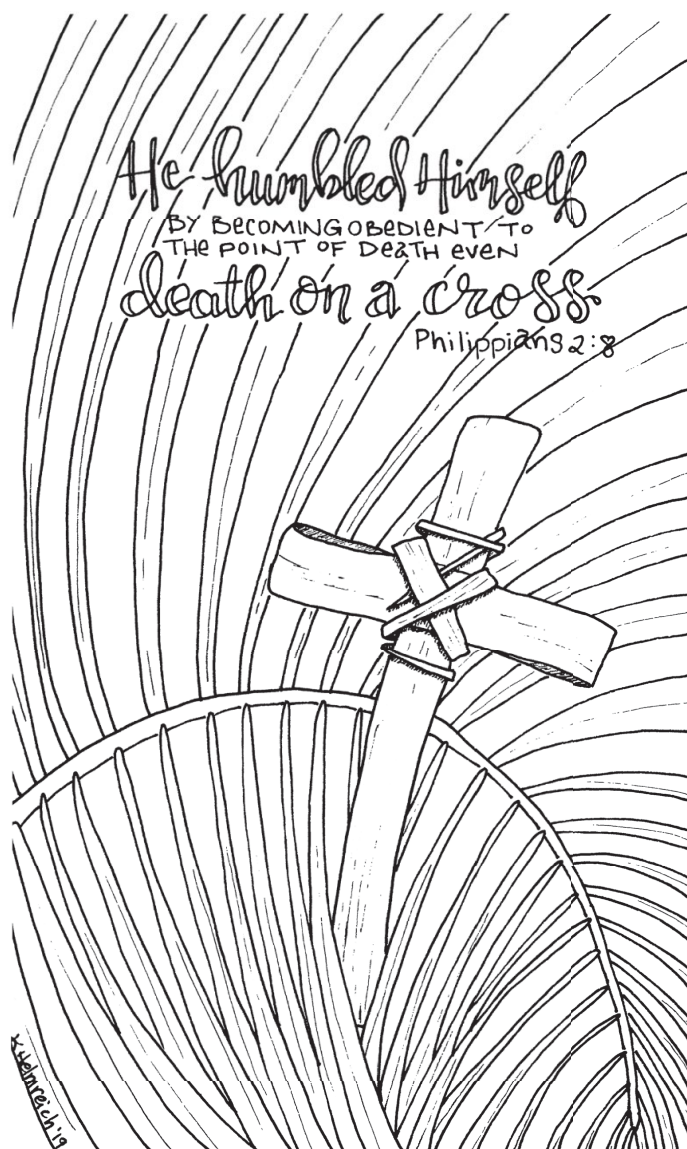
Reread verses 25 and 26 of Psalm 118. Do you recognize these words? They are the words the people shouted when Jesus entered Jerusalem! *Hosanna* means "save us." Jesus saved us from the punishment for our sins.

Psalm 118:19-29

Verse to Remember

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Philippians 2:10-11



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

