



*(Front cover pieces drawn by Eighth Grade students)*

# *Lenten Devotions*

*A gift to you from the students at Bethlehem Lutheran School*

## 2025 Lenten Devotions

*The Passion According to St. Matthew's Gospel*

This year's Lenten devotions are centered around the Passion account from the Gospel of St. Matthew. You will see that the readings assigned for Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday reflect the reading for the propers assigned each week during Lent. While on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays walk through Matthew 26-27.

Each day has assigned to it a reading (some of which is printed for you), a short devotional reading from the *Book of Concord*, a collect from the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, and a hymn stanza(s) from *Lutheran Service Book*.

We hope that these short devotions will guide you and your hearts through this season of Lent, ever pointing you to the cross of Jesus, His death, and more importantly His resurrection from the dead.

## Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

### Reading – Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster” (Joel 2:12-13).

### Devotion

“Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance” (AC XII:2-6)

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Ash Wednesday*).

### Hymn

Savior, when in dust to Thee  
Low we bow the\_adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe  
Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!



Anna H.  
(2nd Grade)

Savior, When in Dust to Thee (*LSB* 419:1)

**Reading** – 2 Peter 1:2-11

“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall” (1 Peter 1:10).

**Devotion**

“...in order that the promise, not only of receiving, but also of retaining righteousness and salvation, may be firm and sure to us, St. Paul, Rom. 5:2, ascribes to faith not only the entrance to grace, but also that we stand in grace and boast of the future glory, that is, the beginning, middle, and end he ascribes all to *faith alone*. Likewise, Rom. 11:20: Because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Col. 1:22: He will present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight, if ye continue in the faith. 1 Pet. 1:5. 9: By the power of God we are kept through faith unto salvation. Likewise: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (SD IV:34).

**Collect**

Lord Jesus, Holy One of God, You showed that the Kingdom of God had come by Your healing the sick and casting out demons. Heal us in both body and soul by the medicine of immortality of Your body and blood that we may truly be You disciples; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Thursday after Ash Wednesday*).

**Hymn**

By Thy helpless infant years,  
 By Thy life of want and tears,  
 By Thy days of deep distress  
 In the savage wilderness,  
 By the dread, mysterious hour  
 Of the \_insulting tempter’s pow’r,  
 Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye;  
 Hear our penitential cry!



Maise  
 (2nd Grade)

Savior, When in Dust to Thee (*LSB 419:2*)

**Reading** – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:5-6).

**Devotion**

“Prayer is therefore as strictly and earnestly commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, etc. Let no one think that it is all the same whether he pray or not, as vulgar people do, who grope in such delusion and ask, Why should I pray? Who knows whether God heeds or will hear my prayer? If I do not pray, some one else will. And thus they fall into the habit of never praying, and frame a pretext, as though we taught that there is no duty or need of prayer, because we reject false and hypocritical prayers” (LC III:6).

**Collect**

O God and Ruler over all our foes of body and soul, You strengthen Your servants Perpetua and Felicitas, giving them a confident and clear confession in the face of roaring beasts. Grant that we who remember their faithful martyrdom may share in their blessed assurance of victory over all earthly and spiritual enemies and hold fast to the promise of everlasting life secured through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Commemoration of Perpetua and Felicitas, Martyrs*).

**Hymn**

By Thine hour of dire despair,  
 By Thine agony of prayer,  
 By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
 By the gloom that veiled the skies  
 O’er the dreadful sacrifice,  
 Listen to our humble sigh;  
 Hear our penitential cry!



Maren  
 (3rd Grade)

Savior, When in Dust to Thee (*LSB 419:3*)

**Saturday after Ash Wednesday**

March 8, 2025

**Reading** – Psalm 51:1-13

“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment” (Psalm 51:4).

**Devotion**

Such is the following confession, Ps. 51:4: Against Thee only have I sinned, that Thou mightest be justified, and be clear when Thou judgest, i.e., “I confess that I am a sinner, and have merited eternal wrath, nor can I set my righteousnesses, my merits, against Thy wrath; accordingly, I declare that Thou art just when Thou condemnest and punishest us; I declare that Thou art clear when hypocrites judge Thee to be unjust in punishing them or in condemning the well-deserving. Yea, our merits cannot be opposed to Thy judgment; but we shall thus be justified, namely, if Thou justifiest us, if through Thy mercy Thou accountest us righteous” (Ap XII:108).

**Collect**

Merciful Father, You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of His redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in His way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Saturday after Ash Wednesday*).

**Hymn**

By Thy deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode  
Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav’n restored,  
Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!



*Nolan  
(1st Grade)*

Savior, When in Dust to Thee (*LSB 419:4*)

**First Sunday in Lent – Invocabit**

March 9, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 4:1-11

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1).

**Devotion**

The Sixth Petition. *And lead us not into temptation.* What does this mean? Answer: God, indeed, tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us, nor seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and though we be assailed by them, that still we may finally overcome and gain the victory” (SC III).

**Collect**

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Invocabit*).

**Hymn**

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.  
  
You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God’s eternal Word.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (*LSB 418:1-2*)



*Anthony  
(1st Grade)*

## Invocabit – Monday

March 10, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 26:1-5

“When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ‘You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.’” (Matthew 26:1-2).

### Devotion

“[The Roman Catholic Church] condemn us, for teaching that men obtain remission of sins not because of their own merits, but freely for Christ’s sake, through faith in Christ. [They reject quite stubbornly both these statements.] For they condemn us both for denying that men obtain remission of sins because of their own merits, and for affirming that, through faith, men obtain remission of sins, and through faith in Christ are justified (Ap IV:1).

### Collect

Lord Jesus, prepare us for that eternal Sabbath when You will rest in us, just as now You work in us. The rest that we shall enjoy will be Yours, just as the work that we now do is Your work done through us. But You, O Lord, are eternally at work and eternally at rest. It is not time that You see or in time that You move or in time that You rest, yet You make what we see in time. You make time itself and the repose which comes when time ceases; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Monday of Invocabit*).

### Hymn

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God’s love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven’s praise.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (*LSB 418:3-4*)



Alex  
(6th Grade)

## Invocabit – Tuesday

March 11, 2025

### Reading – Genesis 3:1-21

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

### Devotion

From the beginning of the world these two proclamations [of Law and Gospel] have been ever and ever inculcated alongside of each other in the Church of God, with a proper distinction. For the descendants of the venerated patriarchs, as also the patriarchs themselves, not only called to mind constantly how in the beginning man had been created righteous and holy by God, and through the fraud of the Serpent had transgressed God’s command, had become a sinner, and had corrupted and precipitated himself with all his posterity into death and eternal condemnation, but also encouraged and comforted themselves again by the preaching concerning the Seed of the Woman, who would bruise the Serpent’s head, Gen. 3:15.

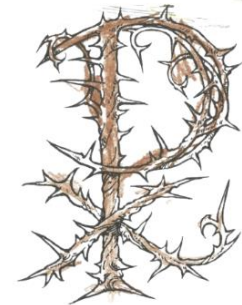
### Collect

Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Tuesday of Invocabit*).

### Hymn

We sing the praise of Him who died,  
Of Him who died upon the cross.  
The sinner’s hope let all deride;  
For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters, “God is love.”  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.



Cora P.  
(Kindergarten)

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died (*LSB 429:1-2*)

**Invocabit – Wednesday**

March 12, 2025

**Reading – Matthew 26:6-13**

“In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial” (Matthew 26:12).

**Devotion**

“But since in this controversy the chief topic of Christian doctrine [Justification] is treated, which, understood aright, illumines and amplifies the honor of Christ [which is of especial service for the clear, correct understanding of the entire Holy Scriptures, and alone shows the way to the unspeakable treasure and right knowledge of Christ, and alone opens the door to the entire Bible], and brings necessary and most abundant consolation to devout consciences, we ask His Imperial Majesty to hear us with forbearance in regard to matters of such importance (Ap IV:2).

**Collect**

Almighty and merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Wednesday of Invocabit*).

**Hymn**

The cross! It takes our guilt away;;  
It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day  
And sweetens ev’ry bitter cup.  
  
It makes the coward spirit brave  
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave  
And gilds the bed of death with light;



Bailey  
(6th Grade)

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died (*LSB 429:3-4*)

**Invocabit – Thursday**

March 13, 2025

**Reading – 2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain” (2 Corinthians 6:1).

**Devotion**

“From this, then, it follows that as soon as the Holy Ghost, as has been said, through the Word and holy Sacraments, has begun in us this His work of regeneration and renewal, it is certain that through the power of the Holy Ghost we can and should cooperate, although still in great weakness. But this [that we cooperate] does not occur from our carnal natural powers, but from the new powers and gifts which the Holy Ghost has begun in us in conversion, as St. Paul expressly and earnestly exhorts that as workers together with Him we receive not the grace of God in vain, 2 Cor. 6:1. But this is to be understood in no other way than that the converted man does good to such an extent and so long as God by His Holy Spirit rules, guides, and leads him, and that as soon as God would withdraw His gracious hand from him, he could not for a moment persevere in obedience to God” (SD II:65-66).

**Collect**

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Thursday of Invocabit*).

**Hymn**

The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner’s refuge here below,  
The angels’ theme in heav’n above.  
  
To Christ, who won for sinners grace  
By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race  
Forever and forevermore.



Robert  
(Kindergarten)

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died (*LSB 429:5-6*)

**Invocabit – Friday**

March 14, 2025

**Reading – Matthew 26:14-16**

“Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him” (Matthew 26:14-16).

**Devotion**

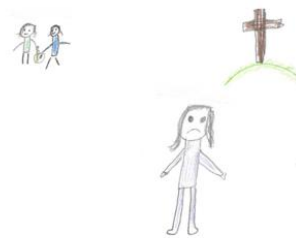
“For since the adversaries understand neither what the remission of sins, nor what faith, nor what grace, nor what righteousness is, they sadly corrupt this topic, and obscure the glory and benefits of Christ, and rob devout consciences of the consolations offered in Christ. But that we may strengthen the position of our Confession, and also remove the charges which the adversaries advance against us, certain things are to be premised in the beginning, in order that the sources of both kinds of doctrine, i.e., both that of our adversaries and our own, may be known” (Ap IV:3-4).

**Collect**

Lord Jesus, Son of the Most High God, You freed many from their bondage to demons, demonstrating Your power over the evil one. Show us Your mercy when we are overcome by the darkness of sin, death, and the devil, and protect us by Your mighty Word that does what it says; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever *(Collect for the Friday of Invocabit)*.

**Hymn**

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.  
When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.



Caroline  
(7th Grade)

In the Cross of Christ I Glory *(LSB 427:1-2)*

**Invocabit – Saturday**

March 15, 2025

**Reading – Psalm 32**

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit” (Psalm 32:1-2).

**Devotion**

“To attain the remission of sins is to be justified, according to Ps. 32:1: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. By faith alone in Christ, not through love, not because of love or works, do we acquire the remission of sins, although love follows faith. Therefore by faith alone we are justified, understanding justification as the making of a righteous man out of an unrighteous, or that he be regenerated” (Ap IV:76-78).

**Collect**

Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever *(Collect for the Saturday of Invocabit)*.

**Hymn**

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.  
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.



Jon  
(2nd Grade)

In the Cross of Christ I Glory *(LSB 427:3-4)*

**Second Sunday in Lent – Reminiscere**

March 16, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 15:21-28

“And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon’” (Matthew 15:22).

**Devotion**

The Seventh Petition. ***But deliver us from evil.*** *What does this mean?* Answer: “We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from all manner of evil, of body and soul, property and honor, and at last, when our last hour shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself into heaven” (SC III).

**Collect**

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 (*Collect for Reminiscere*).

**Hymn**

When in the hour of deepest need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
No help or counsel yet have brought,  
Then is our comfort this alone  
That we may meet before Your throne;  
To You, O faithful God, we cry  
For rescue in our misery.



Brooke  
(1st Grade)

When in the Hour of Deepest Need (*LSB* 615:1-2)

**Reminiscere – Monday**

March 17, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 26:17-25

“The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born” (Matthew 26:24).

**Devotion**

“All Scripture ought to be distributed into these two principal topics, the Law and the promises. For in some places it presents the Law, and in others the promise concerning Christ, namely, either when [in the Old Testament] it promises that Christ will come, and offers, for His sake, the remission of sins justification, and life eternal, or when, in the Gospel [in the New Testament], Christ Himself, since He has appeared, promises the remission of sins, justification, and life eternal. Moreover, in this discussion, by Law we designate the Ten Commandments, wherever they are read in the Scriptures. Of the ceremonies and judicial laws of Moses we say nothing at present” (Ap IV:5-6).

**Collect**

Almighty God, You chose Your servant Patrick to be a missionary to the Irish people who were wandering in darkness and error. You bound unto them the trinitarian name through Baptism and faith that they might dwell in the light of Christ. Bind unto us this same strong name of the Trinity as we remember our Baptism and walk in His light, that we may come to dwell at last in the eternal light of the presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Commemoration of St. Patrick, Missionary to Ireland*).

**Hymn**

For You have promised, Lord, to heed  
Your children’s cries in time of need  
Through Him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our advocate.  
And se we come, O God, today  
And all our woes before You lay;  
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,  
Perplexed by fears on ev’ry hand.

When in the Hour of Deepest Need (*LSB* 615:3-4)



Emma C.  
(5th Grade)

**Reminiscere – Tuesday**

March 18, 2025

**Reading** – Genesis 32:22-32

“Then he said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed’” (Genesis 32:28).

**Devotion**

“And in Christians this repentance continues until death, because, through the entire life it contends with sin remaining in the flesh, as Paul, Rom. 7:14-25, [shows] testifies that he *wars with the law in his members*, etc.; and that, not by his own powers, but by the gift of the Holy Ghost that follows the remission of sins. This gift daily cleanses and sweeps out the remaining sins, and works so as to render man truly pure and holy” (SA III III 40).

**Collect**

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Tuesday of Reminiscere*).

**Hymn**

O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;  
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev’ry ill.  
  
So we with all our hearts each day  
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to Your Word,  
And now and ever praise You, Lord.



Bryce  
(Kindergarten)

When in the Hour of Deepest Need (*LSB* 615:5-6)

**Reminiscere – Wednesday**

March 19, 2025

*St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord*

**Reading** – Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

“But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel” (Matthew 2:19-21).

**Devotion**

“In addition, it would be well to preach to the parents also, and such as bear their office, as to how they should deport themselves toward those who are committed to them for their government. For although this is not expressed in the Ten Commandments, it is nevertheless abundantly enjoined in many places in the Scripture. And God desires to have it embraced in this commandment when He speaks of father and mother. For He does not wish to have in this office and government knaves and tyrants; nor does He assign to them this honor, that is, power and authority to govern, that they should have themselves worshiped; but they should consider that they are under obligations of obedience to God; and that, first of all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge their office, not only to support and provide for the bodily necessities of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but, most of all, to train them to the honor and praise of God” (LC I:167-168).

**Collect**

Almighty God, from the house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother, Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding Your counsel and obeying Your commands; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord*).

**Hymn**

Our Father, by whose name  
All fatherhood is known,  
Who dost in love proclaim  
Each family Thine own,  
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,  
With constant love as sentinel,  
The homes in which Thy people dwell.



Weslynn  
(3rd Grade)

Our Father, by Whose Name (*LSB* 863:1)

## Reminiscere – Thursday

March 20, 2025

### Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

“Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more” (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

### Devotion

“For this reason let every one esteem his Baptism as a daily dress in which he is to walk constantly, that he may ever be found in the faith and its fruits, that he suppress the old man and grow up in the new. For if we would be Christians, we must practice the work whereby we are Christians. But if any one fall away from it, let him again come into it. For just as Christ, the Mercy-seat, does not recede from us or forbid us to come to Him again, even though we sin, so all His treasure and gifts also remain. If, therefore, we have once in Baptism obtained forgiveness of sin, it will remain every day, as long as we live, that is, as long as we carry the old man about our neck” (LC IV:84-86).

### Collect

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Thursday of Reminiscere*).

### Hymn

Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.



Ronnie  
(3rd Grade)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (*LSB 423:1*)

## Reminiscere – Friday

March 21, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 26:26-29

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:26-28).

### Devotion

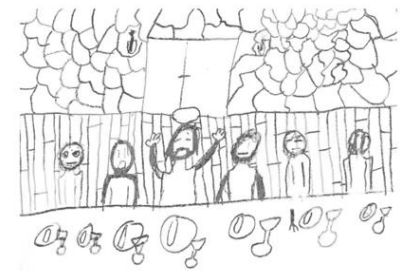
“Of these two parts [the Law and promises] the adversaries select the Law, because human reason naturally understands, in some way, the Law (for it has the same judgment divinely written in the mind); [the natural law agrees with the law of Moses, or the Ten Commandments] and by the Law they seek the remission of sins and justification. <sup>8</sup> Now, the Decalogue requires not only outward civil works, which reason can in some way produce, but it also requires other things placed far above reason, namely, truly to fear God, truly to love God, truly to call upon God, truly to be convinced that God hears us, and to expect the aid of God in death and in all afflictions; finally, it requires obedience to God, in death and all afflictions, so that we may not flee from these or refuse them when God imposes them” (Ap IV:7-8).

### Collect

Lord Jesus, Bread of Life, in Your great compassion You fed the multitudes with a few loaves and a few fish. Feed us the holy food of Your word broken open that hearts may burn and Your very body and blood that eyes may be opened to see You as the very Bread of heaven; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Friday of Reminiscere*).

### Hymn

Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.



Emma  
(6th Grade)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (*LSB 423:2*)

**Reminiscere – Saturday**

March 22, 2025

**Reading – Psalm 121**

“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore” (Psalm 121:8).

**Devotion**

“Thus the Spirit of God gives to the elect the testimony that they are children of God, and when they do not know for what they should pray as they ought, He intercedes for them with groanings that cannot be uttered, Rom. 8:16. 26. Thus, also, Holy Scripture testifies that God, who has called us, is so faithful that, when He has begun the good work in us, He also will preserve it to the end and perfect it, if we ourselves do not turn from Him, but firmly retain to the end the work begun, for which He has promised His grace, 1 Cor. 1:9; Phil. 1:6 [ 1 Pet. 5:10 ]; 2 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 3:2” (SD XI:31-32)

**Collect**

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Saturday of Reminiscere*).

**Hymn**

Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.



June  
(2nd Grade)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (*LSB 423:3*)

**Third Sunday in Lent – Oculi**

March 23, 2025

**Reading – Luke 11:14-28**

“And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first” (Luke 11:25-26).

**Devotion**

“Thus many receive the Word with joy, but afterwards fall away again, Luke 8:13. But the cause is not as though God were unwilling to grant grace for perseverance to those in whom He has begun the good work, for that is contrary to St. Paul, Phil. 1:6; but the cause is that they willfully turn away again from the holy commandment [of God], grieve and embitter the Holy Ghost, implicate themselves again in the filth of the world, and garnish again the habitation of the heart for the devil. With them the last state is worse than the first, 2 Pet. 2:10. 20; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 10:26; Luke 11:25” (SD XI:42).

**Collect**

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Oculi*).

**Hymn**

Lord of our life and God of our salvation,  
Star of our night and hope of ev’ry nation:  
Hear and receive Your Church’s supplication,  
Lord God Almighty.  
See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;  
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling  
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,  
O Lord, preserve us.



Emme  
(Kindergarten)

Lord of Our Life (*LSB 659:1-2*)

**Oculi – Monday**

March 24, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 26:30-35

“Jesus said to him, 'Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times’” (Matthew 26:34).

**Devotion**

“Here the scholastics, having followed the philosophers, teach only a righteousness of reason, namely, civil works, and fabricate besides that without the Holy Ghost reason can love God above all things. For, as long as the human mind is at ease, and does not feel the wrath or judgment of God, it can imagine that it wishes to love God, that it wishes to do good for God’s sake. [But it is sheer hypocrisy.] In this manner they teach that men merit the remission of sins by doing what is in them, i.e., if reason, grieving over sin, elicit an act of love to God, or for God’s sake be active in that which is good. And because this opinion naturally flatters men, it has brought forth and multiplied in the Church many services, monastic vows, abuses of the mass; and, with this opinion the one has, in the course of time, devised this act of worship and observances, the other that. And in order that they might nourish and increase confidence in such works, they have affirmed that God necessarily gives grace to one thus working, by the necessity not of constraint but of immutability [not that He is constrained, but that this is the order which God will not transgress or alter]” (Ap IV:9-11).

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Monday of Oculi*).

**Hymn**

Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;  
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;  
And in the day when hell itself assails us,  
Grant us Your peace, Lord:

Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,  
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,  
Peace when the world its endless war is waging,  
Peace in Your heaven.



Hunter  
(6th Grade)

Lord of Our Life (*LSB 659:3-4*)

**Oculi – Tuesday**

March 25, 2025

*The Annunciation of Our Lord*

**Reading** – Luke 1:26-38

“And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:30-33).

**Devotion**

“Also they teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, did assume the human nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably enjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men” (AC III:1-3).

**Collect**

O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory 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 (*Collect for the Annunciation of Our Lord*).

**Hymn**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady.”

Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady.”

Gloria!



Gabriella C.  
(3rd Grade)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (*LSB 356:1-2*)

**Oculi – Wednesday**

March 26, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 26:36-46

“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will’” (Matthew 26:39).

**Devotion**

The Third Petition: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?* Answer: The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. *How is this done?* Answer: When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will (SC III)

**Collect**

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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Wednesday of Oculi*).

**Hymn**

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.



Ivan  
(7th Grade)

Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain (*LSB 435:1*)

**Oculi – Thursday**

March 27, 2025

**Reading** – Ephesians 5:1-9

“Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:7-8).

**Devotion**

“Above all, therefore, the false Epicurean delusion is to be earnestly censured and rejected, namely, that some imagine that faith and the righteousness and salvation which they have received can be lost through no sins or wicked deeds, not even through willful and intentional ones, but that a Christian although he indulges his wicked lusts without fear and shame, resists the Holy Ghost, and purposely engages in sins against conscience, yet none the less retains faith, God’s grace, righteousness, and salvation. Against this pernicious delusion the following true, immutable, divine threats and severe punishments and admonitions should be often repeated and impressed upon Christians who are justified by faith: 1 Cor. 6:9: Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, etc., shall inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5: They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Rom. 8:13: If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die. Col. 3:6: For which thing’s sake the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience” (SD IV:31-32).

**Collect**

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; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Thursday of Oculi*).

**Hymn**

Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.



Evelynn  
(2nd Grade)

Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain (*LSB 435:2*)

## Oculi – Friday

March 28, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 26:47-56

“At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled” (Matthew 26:55-56).

### Devotion

“In this opinion [of the scholastics] there are many great and pernicious errors, which it would be tedious to enumerate. Let the discreet reader think only of this: If this be Christian righteousness, what difference is there between philosophy and the doctrine of Christ? If we merit the remission of sins by these elicit acts [that spring from our mind], of what benefit is Christ? If we can be justified by reason and the works of reason, wherefore is there need of Christ or regeneration [as Peter declares, 1 Pet. 1:18ff ]” (Ap IV:12-13)?

### Collect

O God, the helper of all who call on You, have mercy on us and give us eyes of faith to see Your Son that we may follow Him on the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Friday of Oculi*).

### Hymn

Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain (*LSB 435:3*)



*Jonah*  
(5th Grade)

## Oculi – Saturday

March 29, 2025

### Reading – Psalm 136:1-16

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1).

### Devotion

“Now, since all that we possess, and, moreover, whatever, in addition, is in heaven and upon the earth, is daily given, preserved, and kept for us by God, it is readily inferred and concluded that it is our duty to love, praise, and thank Him for it without ceasing, and, in short, to serve Him with all these things, as He demands and has enjoined in the Ten Commandments” (LC II:19).

### Collect

God of our salvation, Your beloved Son entered the Holy City to shouts of “Hosanna!” for truly He came in the name of the Lord. Give us faith to grasp the mystery of His suffering, death, and resurrection on our behalf as we journey with Him this Lenten season to the cross and, beyond that, to the empty tomb; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Saturday of Oculi*).

### Hymn

They that drink shall live forever;  
‘Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain (*LSB 435:4*)



*Leila*  
(2nd Grade)

**Fourth Sunday in Lent – Laetare**

March 30, 2025

**Reading** – John 6:1-15

“Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted” (John 6:11).

**Devotion**

The Fourth Petition. *Give us this day our daily bread.* *What does this mean?* Answer: God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Answer: Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful magistrates, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like” (SC III).

**Collect**

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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Laetare*).

**Hymn**

Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
    Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
    Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
    Thou art mine,  
    O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.



*Caleb*  
*(1st Grade)*

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (*LSB 743:1*)

**Laetare – Monday**

March 31, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 26:57-68

“Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:64).

**Devotion**

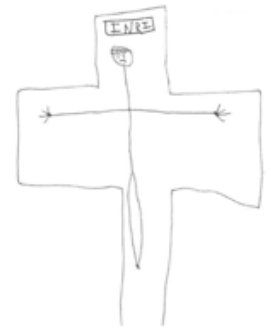
“Thus the adversaries teach nothing but the righteousness of reason, or certainly of the Law, upon which they look just as the Jews upon the veiled face of Moses; and, in secure hypocrites who think that they satisfy the Law, they excite presumption and empty confidence in works [they place men on a sand foundation, their own works] and contempt of the grace of Christ. On the contrary, they drive timid consciences to despair, which laboring with doubt, never can experience what faith is, and how efficacious it is; thus, at last they utterly despair” (Ap IV:21).

**Collect**

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the kingdom of Egypt the needy and suffering people were told to go to Joseph and do all that he shall say to them. May the needy and suffering people in the kingdom of Your Church now be provided for by those who follow in the example of Joseph as they love their neighbors as themselves; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Commemoration of Joseph, Patriarch*).

**Hymn**

In Thine arms I rest me;  
Foes who would molest me  
    Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking,  
Ev’ry heart be quaking,  
    Jesus calms my fear.  
    Lightnings flash  
    And thunders crash;  
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.



*JT*  
*(5th Grade)*

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (*LSB 743:2*)

**Laetare – Tuesday**

April 1, 2025

**Reading** – Exodus 16:2-21

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God’” (Exodus 16:11-12).

**Devotion**

“Behold, thus God wishes to indicate to us how He cares for us in all our need, and faithfully provides also for our temporal support. And although He abundantly grants and preserves these things even to the wicked and knaves, yet He wishes that we pray for them, in order that we may recognize that we receive them from His hand, and may feel His paternal goodness toward us therein. For when He withdraws His hand, nothing can prosper nor be maintained in the end, as, indeed, we daily see and experience” (LC III:82-83).

**Collect**

Lord God, heavenly Father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, Your servant Moses proclaimed the resurrection to the children of Israel to give them hope in the midst of their darkness. As we journey to the darkness of the cross, give us hope to look beyond it to the light of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord (*Collect for the Tuesday of Laetare*).

**Hymn**

Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee;  
Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me  
While I sing of peace.  
God’s great pow’r  
Guards ev’ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him,  
Silent bow before Him.



Harper  
(3rd Grade)

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (LSB 743:3)

**Laetare – Wednesday**

April 2, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 26:69-75

“And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75).

**Devotion**

“Now, we think concerning the righteousness of reason thus, namely, that God requires it, and that, because of God’s commandment, the honorable works which the Decalogue commands must necessarily be performed, according to the passage Gal. 3:24: The Law was our schoolmaster; likewise 1 Tim. 1:9: The Law is made for the ungodly. For God wishes those who are carnal [gross sinners] to be restrained by civil discipline, and to maintain this, He has given laws, letters, doctrine, magistrates, penalties. And this righteousness reason, by its own strength, can, to a certain extent, work, although it is often overcome by natural weakness, and by the devil impelling it to manifest crimes. Now, although we cheerfully assign this righteousness of reason the praises that are due it (for this corrupt nature has no greater good [in this life and in a worldly nature, nothing is ever better than uprightness and virtue], and Aristotle says aright: Neither the evening star nor the morning star is more beautiful than righteousness, and God also honors it with bodily rewards), yet it ought not to be praised with reproach to Christ” (Ap IV:22-24).

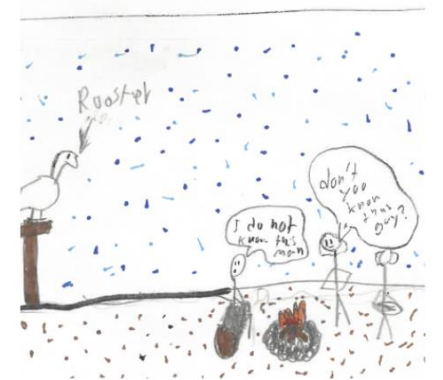
**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Wednesday of Laetare*).

**Hymn**

Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my pleasure,  
Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story  
Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss,  
Or shame or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (LSB 743:4)



Jude  
(6th Grade)

**Laetare – Thursday**

April 3, 2025

**Reading** – Galatians 4:21-31

“So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman” (Galatians 4:31).

**Devotion**

“For it is necessary that the doctrine of Christian liberty be preserved in the churches, namely, that the bondage of the Law is not necessary to justification, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians 5:1: Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. It is necessary that the chief article of the Gospel be preserved, to wit, that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not for certain observances or acts of worship devised by men” (AC XXVIII:51-52).

**Collect**

O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Thursday of Laetare*).

**Hymn**

Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow’r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.



*Vince*  
(1st Grade)

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (*LSB 743:5*)

**Laetare – Friday**

April 4, 2025

**Reading** – Matthew 27:1-2

“When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor” (Matthew 27:1-2).

**Devotion**

“For it is false [I thus conclude, and am certain that it is a fiction, and not true] that we merit the remission of sins by our works. False also is this, that men are accounted righteous before God because of the righteousness of reason [works and external piety]. False also is this that reason, by its own strength, is able to love God above all things, and to fulfil God’s Law, namely, truly to fear God, to be truly confident that God hears prayer, to be willing to obey God in death and other dispensations of God, not to covet what belongs to others, etc.; although reason can work civil works. False also and dishonoring Christ is this, that men do not sin who, without grace, do the commandments of God [who keep the commandments of God merely in an external manner, without the Spirit and grace in their hearts] (Ap IV:25-28).

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Friday of Laetare*).

**Hymn**

Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate’er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!



*Lucas*  
(7th Grade)

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (*LSB 743:6*)

**Laetare – Saturday**

April 5, 2025

**Reading – Psalm 132:8-18**

“Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy” (Psalm 132:8-9).

**Devotion**

“And all godly minds should certainly know that the opinion is simply pharisaic and condemned that these observances merit the remission of sins; that on account of them we are accounted righteous; that on account of them, and not through mercy on account of Christ, we obtain eternal life. And the holy men who have lived in these kinds of life must necessarily have learned, confidence in such observance having been rejected, that they had the remission of sins freely; that for Christ’s sake through mercy they would obtain eternal life, and not for the sake of these services because God only approves services instituted by His Word, which services avail when used in faith” (Ap XXVII:69).

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, Your body was anointed with holy oil by the woman at the house of Simon the leper to prepare it for burial. May Your Church continue to take care of Your Body as she feeds Your people the holy food of Your very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever *(Collect for the Saturday of Laetare)*.

**Hymn**

On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!



Lucas H.  
(3rd Grade)

On My Heart Imprint Your Image *(LSB 422)*

**Fifth Sunday in Lent – Judica**

April 6, 2025

**Reading – John 8:42-59**

“Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me” (John 8:42).

**Devotion**

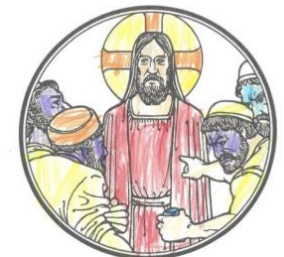
“Therefore, only those are the people, according to the Gospel, who receive this promise of the Spirit. Besides, the Church is the kingdom of Christ, distinguished from the kingdom of the devil. It is certain, however, that the wicked are in the power of the devil, and members of the kingdom of the devil, as Paul teaches, Eph. 2:2, when he says that the devil now worketh in the children of disobedience. And Christ says to the Pharisees, who certainly had outward fellowship with the Church, i.e., with the saints among the people of the Law (for they held office, sacrificed, and taught): Ye are of your father, the devil, John 8:44. Therefore, the Church, which is truly the kingdom of Christ, is properly the congregation of saints. For the wicked are ruled by the devil, and are captives of the devil; they are not ruled by the Spirit of Christ” (Ap VII & VIII:16).

**Collect**

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 *(Collect for Judica)*.

**Hymn**

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?



Clyde  
(2nd Grade)

My Song Is Love Unknown *(LSB 430:1)*

## Judica – Monday

April 7, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:3-10

“Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ They said, ‘What is that to us? See to it yourself’” (Matthew 27:3-4).

### Devotion

“Lastly, it was very foolish for the adversaries to write that men who are under eternal wrath merit the remission of sins by an act of love, which springs from their mind since it is impossible to love God, unless the remission of sins be apprehended first by faith. For the heart, truly feeling that God is angry, cannot love God, unless He be shown to have been reconciled. As long as He terrifies us, and seems to cast us into eternal death, human nature is not able to take courage, so as to love a wrathful, judging, and punishing God [poor, weak nature must lose heart and courage, and must tremble before such great wrath, which so fearfully terrifies and punishes, and can never feel a spark of love before God Himself comforts]. It is easy for idle men to feign such dreams concerning love, as, that a person guilty of mortal sin can love God above all things, because they do not feel what the wrath or judgment of God is. But in agony of conscience and in conflicts [with Satan] conscience experiences the emptiness of these philosophical speculations” (Ap IV:36-37).

### Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Garden of Gethsemane You suffered the agony of drinking from the cup of Your Father’s wrath against our sin, being betrayed by a kiss from one of Your own. Give us strength to remain awake as we now wait and watch for Your coming again, knowing that the Father’s wrath against us has been satisfied by Your bloody death and vindicating resurrection; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Monday of Judica*).

### Hymn

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

My Song Is Love Unknown (*LSB* 430:2)



Makayla  
(5th Grade)

## Judica – Tuesday

April 8, 2025

### Reading – Genesis 22:1-14

“After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you’” (Genesis 22:1-2).

### Devotion

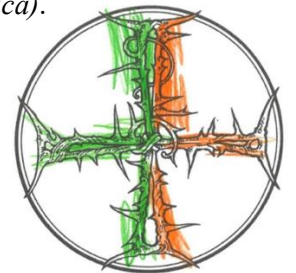
“The people had heard that Abraham had sacrificed his son. Wherefore they also, in order to appease God by a most cruel and difficult work, put to death their sons. But Abraham did not sacrifice his son with the opinion that this work was a price and propitiatory work for the sake of which he was accounted righteous. Thus in the Church the Lord’s Supper was instituted that by remembrance of the promises of Christ, of which we are admonished in this sign, faith might be strengthened in us, and we might publicly confess our faith, and proclaim the benefits of Christ, as Paul says, 1 Cor. 11:26: As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death, etc. But our adversaries contend that the mass is a work that justifies us *ex opere operato*, and removes the guilt and liability to punishment in those for whom it is celebrated” (Ap IV:209-210).

### Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, the temple of Your body was destroyed on the cross and three days later raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father. Visit us now with this same body, that we may not deny that we know You, but in faith hear in our ears Your life-giving voice and receive on our lips Your very body and blood to strengthen us in times of temptation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Tuesday of Judica*).

### Hymn

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



Isaac  
(1st Grade)

My Song Is Love Unknown (*LSB* 430:3)

## Judica – Wednesday

April 9, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:11-14

“Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You have said so.’ But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?’ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed” (Matthew 27:11-14).

### Devotion

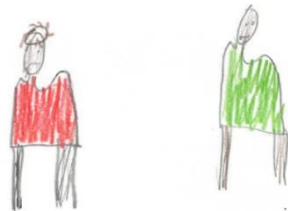
“Because, therefore, men by their own strength cannot fulfil the Law of God, and all are under sin, and subject to eternal wrath and death, on this account we cannot be freed by the Law from sin and be justified, but the promise of the remission of sins and of justification has been given us for Christ’s sake, who was given for us in order that He might make satisfaction for the sins of the world, and has been appointed as the [only] Mediator and Propitiator. And this promise has not the condition of our merits [it does not read thus: Through Christ you have grace, salvation etc., if you merit it], but freely offers the remission of sins and justification as Paul says Rom. 11:6: If it be of works, then is it no more grace. And in another place, Rom. 3:21: The righteousness of God without the Law is manifested, i.e., the remission of sins is freely offered. Nor does reconciliation depend upon our merits” (Ap IV:40-41).

### Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, You released many from their bondage to sin, death, and the devil as the healer of the nations. But when it came time to release You, the crowd chose a murderer instead. Through our co-crucifixion with You in the waters of Holy Baptism, may we continually be released from our sins as we confess You to be our everlasting King; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Wednesday of Judica*).

### Hymn

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



Matthew  
(6th Grade)

My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430:4)

## Judica – Thursday

April 10, 2025

### Reading – Hebrews 9:11-15

“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11-12)

### Devotion

“Thus neither the divine nor the human nature of Christ by itself is imputed to us for righteousness, but only the obedience of the person who is at the same time God and man. And faith thus regards the person of Christ as it was made under the Law for us, bore our sins, and in His going to the Father offered to His heavenly Father for us poor sinners His entire, complete obedience, from His holy birth even unto death, and has thereby covered all our disobedience which inheres in our nature, and its thoughts, words, and works, so that it is not imputed to us for condemnation, but is pardoned and forgiven out of pure grace, alone for Christ’s sake” (SD III:58).

### Collect

God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord (*Collect for the Thursday of Judica*).

### Hymn

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



Violet  
(1st Grade)

My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430:5)

**Judica – Friday**

April 11, 2025

**Reading – Matthew 27:15-23**

“Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified” (Matthew 27:22)!

**Devotion**

“But since justification is obtained through the free promise it follows that we cannot justify ourselves. Otherwise wherefore would there be need to promise? [And why should Paul so highly extol and praise grace?] For since the promise cannot be received except by faith, the Gospel which is properly the promise of the remission of sins and of justification for Christ’s sake, proclaims the righteousness of faith in Christ, which the Law does not teach. Nor is this the righteousness of the Law. For the Law requires of us our works and our perfection. But the Gospel freely offers, for Christ’s sake, to us, who have been vanquished by sin and death, reconciliation which is received not by works, but by faith alone. This faith brings to God not confidence in one’s own merits, but only confidence in the promise, or the mercy promised in Christ” (Ap IV:43-45).

**Collect**

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord (*Collect for the Friday of Judica*).

**Hymn**

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

My Song Is Love Unknown (*LSB* 430:6)



Owen  
(6th Grade)

**Judica – Saturday**

April 12, 2025

**Reading – Psalm 43**

“Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God” (Psalm 43:3-4).

**Devotion**

The Third Commandment. *Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day. What does this mean?* Answer: We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it” (SC).

**Collect**

Eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving His Word of comfort that we may find our rest in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Saturday of Judica*).

**Hymn**

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



Lydia  
(Kindergarten)

My Song Is Love Unknown (*LSB* 430:7)

## Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion – Palmarum

April 13, 2025

### Reading – John 12:12-19

“The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!’” (John 12:12-13).

### Devotion

“But all the points which follow in order in this article serve no other end than to explain and express this redemption, how and whereby it was accomplished, that is, how much it cost Him, and what He spent and risked that He might win us and bring us under His dominion, namely, that He became man, conceived and born without [any stain of] sin, of the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, that He might overcome sin; moreover, that He suffered, died and was buried, that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe, not with silver nor gold, but with His own precious blood. And all this, in order to become my Lord; for He did none of these for Himself, nor had He any need of it. And after that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father’s right hand, so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet, until finally, at the last day, He will completely part and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc” (LC II:31).

### Collect

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 (*Collect for the Sunday of the Passion*).

### Hymn

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer,  
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies,  
“All this I gladly suffer.”



Cora D.  
(1st Grade)

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (LSB 438:1)

## Holy Monday

April 14, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:24-26

“So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ And all the people answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified” (Matthew 27:24-26).

### Devotion

“This special faith, therefore, by which an individual believes that for Christ’s sake his sins are remitted him, and that for Christ’s sake God is reconciled and propitious, obtains remission of sins and justifies us. And because in repentance, i.e. in terrors, it comforts and encourages hearts, it regenerates us and brings the Holy Ghost that then we may be able to fulfil God’s Law, namely, to love God, truly to fear God, truly to be confident that God hears prayer, and to obey God in all afflictions; it mortifies concupiscence etc” (Ap IV:45).

### Collect

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Holy Monday*).

### Hymn

This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send  
To gain for us His favor.  
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,  
“And free My children from their dread  
Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share  
The fruit of Your salvation.”



Savannah  
(7th Grade)

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (LSB 438:2)

## Holy Tuesday

April 15, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:27-31

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' (Matthew 27:27-29).

### Devotion

“Thus, because faith, which freely receives the remission of sins, sets Christ, the Mediator and Propitiator, against God’s wrath, it does not present our merits or our love [which would be tossed aside like a little feather by a hurricane]. This faith is the true knowledge of Christ, and avails itself of the benefits of Christ, and regenerates hearts, and precedes the fulfilling of the Law. And of this faith not a syllable exists in the doctrine of our adversaries. Hence we find fault with the adversaries, equally because they teach only the righteousness of the Law, and because they do not teach the righteousness of the Gospel, which proclaims the righteousness of faith in Christ” (Ap IV:46-47).

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord’s passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Holy Tuesday*).

### Hymn

“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly  
I’ll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree,  
I’ll do what You have asked Me.”  
O wondrous Love, what have You done!  
The Father offers up His Son,  
Desiring our salvation.  
O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grave  
Who built the earth’s foundation.



Tucker  
(4th Grade)

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (*LSB* 438:3)

## Holy Wednesday

April 16, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:32-44

“And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots” (Matthew 27:33-35).

### Devotion

“We unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness neither according to the divine nature alone nor according to the human nature alone, but that it is the entire Christ according to both natures, in His obedience alone, which as God and man He rendered to the Father even unto death, and thereby merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, as it is written: As by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous, Rom. 5:19 (Ep III:3).

### Collect

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Holy Wednesday*).

### Hymn

Lord, when Your glory I shall see  
And taste Your kingdom’s pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be,  
My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your throne,  
Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garment richly wrought,  
As Your own bride shall we be brought  
To stand in joy beside You.



Anna F.  
(4th Grade)

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (*LSB* 438:4)

## Holy Thursday

April 17, 2025

### Reading – John 13:1-13, 34-35

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him” (John 13:3-5).

### Devotion

“Hence He also is able and it is very easy for Him to impart, as one who is present, His true body and blood in the Holy Supper, not according to the mode or property of the human nature, but according to the mode and property of the right hand of God, as Dr. Luther says in accordance with our Christian faith for children, which presence (of Christ in the Holy Supper] is not [physical or] earthly, nor Capernaïtic; nevertheless it is true and substantial, as the words of His testament read: This is, is, is My body, etc” (Ep VIII:17).

### Collect

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Holy Thursday*).

### Hymn

Can we fathom such deep mercy?  
Do we see what God has done?  
Who can grasp this great reversal:  
Love that gives His only Son?  
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,  
For the many dies the One.

Jesus gave to His disciples  
A commandment that was new:  
“Show my love to one another,  
Do as I have done for you;  
All the world will know you love Me  
As you love each other too.”



Ellie  
(4th Grade)

Jesus, Greatest at Your Table (*LSB 446:4-5*)

## Good Friday

April 18, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:45-56

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit” (Matthew 27:50).

### Devotion

“Accordingly, we believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God is (this very thing], that God forgives us our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of ours preceding, present, or following, that He presents and imputes to us the righteousness of Christ’s obedience, on account of which righteousness we are received into grace by God, and regarded as righteous. We believe, teach, and confess that faith alone is the means and instrument whereby we lay hold of Christ, and thus in Christ of that righteousness which avails before God, for whose sake this faith is imputed to us for righteousness, Rom. 4:5” (Ep III:4-5).

### Collect

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Good Friday*).

### Hymn

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.

Be Thou my consolation,  
My shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy passion  
When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,  
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee.  
Who dieth thus dies well.



Gabriel  
(4th Grade)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (*LSB 450:1, 7*)

## Holy Saturday

April 19, 2025

### Reading – Matthew 27:57-66

“When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb” (Matthew 27:57-61).

### Devotion

“For it is sufficient that we know that Christ descended into hell, destroyed hell for all believers, and delivered them from the power of death and of the devil, from eternal condemnation and the jaws of hell. But how this occurred we should [not curiously investigate, but] reserve until the other world, where not only this point [mystery], but also still others will be revealed, which we here simply believe, and cannot comprehend with our blind reason” (Ep IX:4).

### Collect

O God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for Holy Saturday*).

### Hymn

O darkest woe!  
Ye tears, forth flow!  
Has earth so sad a wonder?  
God the Father’s only Son  
Now is buried yonder.  
O sorrow dread!  
Our God is dead,  
Upon the cross extended.  
There His love enlivened us  
As His life was ended.



Ginny  
(4th Grade)

O Darkest Woe (*LSB 448:1-2*)

## The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 20, 2025

### Reading – John 20:1-18

“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her” (John 20:17-18).

### Devotion

Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.

And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed hell when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he said, “You, O hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.” Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar because it is mocked. It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.

O death, where is thy sting? O hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!

Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

*The Easter Vigil Sermon of St. John Chrysostom (c. 400)*

### Collect

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*Collect for the Resurrection of Our Lord*).

### Hymn

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

For our offenses given;

But now at God's right hand He stands

And brings us life from heaven.

Therefore let us joyful be

And sing to God right thankfully

Loud songs of alleluia!

Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter Day

On Christ, the bread of heaven;

The Word of grace has purged away

The old and evil leaven.

Christ alone our souls will feed;

He is our meat and drink indeed;

Faith lives upon no other!

Alleluia!

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (*LSB 458:1, 7*)



*Maddie  
(3rd Grade)*

## Acknowledgements

### Artwork

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### Holy Scripture

*All Scriptures, unless otherwise noted, are drawn from the English Standard Version.*

### Lutheran Confessions

*All devotions on the Lutheran Confessions are taken from the Book of Concord found on [www.bookofconcord.org](http://www.bookofconcord.org).*

### Collects

Kinnaman, Scot A., and Henry V. Gerike. *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 2008.

### Hymns

*Lutheran Service Book*. Prepared by the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. St. Louis, Concordia, 2006.

### Abbreviations for *The Book of Concord*

AC	The Augsburg Confession
Ap	Apology of the Augsburg Confession
BC	Book of Concord
Ep	Epitome of the Formula of Concord
FC	Formula of Concord
LC	Large Catechism
SA	Smalcald Articles
SC	Small Catechism
SD	Solid Declarations of the Formula of Concord
Tr	Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope