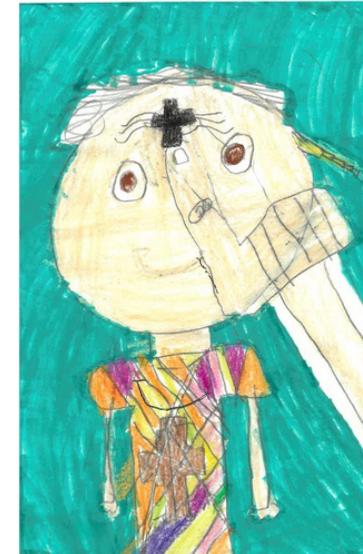




Art by - 6th Graders



# Lenten

DEVOTIONAL

2026

Art by - 4th Graders

## About the Devotional

Devotions written by Rev. Samuel Wirgau  
along with images colored by  
the students of Bethlehem Lutheran School.  
Assembled by Deaconess Wendy Boehm.

*Hymns from The Lutheran Service Book; Concordia Publishing House*

*Reading the Psalms with Luther*

*Images used from Ed Rojas & Visual Faith Ministries*

## How it works

Use this booklet in your daily family devotion time.

It pairs with Pastors "House of Daily Bread" devotional.

The theme focuses on The Lord's Prayer (images in the back of the devotional).

## Service Times and Days

ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 18 at 10a or 7p

MIDWEEK SERVICES  
February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7p

SUNDAY SERVICES  
February 22, March 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 9a

HOLY WEEK  
Palm Sunday - March 29 at 9a  
Maundy Thursday - April 2 at 7p  
Good Friday - April 3 at 7p  
Easter Vigil (at St. John Bingen) - April 4 at 8p  
Easter Sunday - April 5 at 6a & 9a

## The Lord's Prayer

Art by - Kindergarten & 1st Grade



THE INTRODUCTION  
Our Father who art in heaven

THE FIRST PETITION  
Hallowed be Thy name

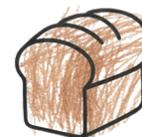


THE SECOND PETITION  
Thy kingdom come

THE THIRD PETITION

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

THE FOURTH PETITION  
Give us this day our daily bread



THE FIFTH PETITION

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

THE SIXTH PETITION  
And lead us not into temptation



THE SEVENTH PETITION  
But deliver us from evil



THE CONCLUSION

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

# AMEN



April 12 - Second Sunday of Easter

PSALM ART - LUCAS W.

READING - PSALM 33

**Devotion:** On the eighth day after Easter we hear the words of Luther on Psalm 33, the appointed psalm for this Sunday. “The 33rd psalm is a psalm of thanks to God in general for His blessings, for helping His faithful people in all kinds of distress, and for not letting them perish. He is able to help because He made all things and still creates all things with a word, so that nothing is impossible with Him. God is also so good and true that He will help and willingly helps, as He has promised in the First Commandment: ‘I will be your God,’ that is, I will be your comfort, help, salvation, life, and all good things, and I will stand against anything that would do you harm. That’s what it means to ‘be God’” (Reading the Psalms with Luther, 80).

**Collect:** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter).

**Hymn:** LSB 470 “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave hath lost its sting!  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!



Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY ART - GABBY; PSALM ART - ANNABELLE

READING - PSALM 1

**Devotion:** Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent, which beyond the characteristic practice of fasting (which is good) also includes increased focus and discipline in both praying and in the reading and meditating on the Word of God. These two things go together nicely. As we are fed and nourished by the Word of God “like a tree planted by streams of water” (v. 3), our faith yields fruit and our prayers issue forth. We are blessed because the blessed and righteous man, the very Son of God, our Lord Christ has given us life in His name, and in His name and by His merit we call God our Father and are given the right to be called children of God.

**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:** LSB 419 “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

1 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!



*Feb. 19 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

READING - GALATIANS 3:23-29

**Devotion:** As Scripture gives the clear promise: you do not pray because you are worthy by your works; you pray because of the command and promise of God. You pray because you are sons of God. You are sons of God through faith in God's Son, Christ Jesus. Your baptism into Christ gives you the right to pray, it makes you an heir, so that you can "with all boldness and confidence ask Him as dear children ask their dear father" (SC). "You can raise this point with Him and say, 'Here I come, dear Father, and pray, not because of my own purpose or because of my own worthiness. But I pray because of Your commandment and promise, which cannot fail or deceive me'" (LC III:21).

**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 Your 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:** 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

1 Our Father, who from heav'n above; Bids all of us to live in love  
As members of one family; And pray to You in unity,  
Teach us no thoughtless words to say; But from our inmost hearts to pray.

*Feb. 20 - Friday after Ash Wednesday*

READING - MATTHEW 6:7-15

**Devotion:** How does your prayer differ from the Gentiles'? What sets you apart and why are you heard? It is not about the amount of words, be they few or many. Nor is it about the passion of your words. The Gentiles "think they will be heard for their many words" (v. 7), but their words are empty. Why? Because they do not first come from the Father who knows what we need before we ask. But your words do, for they are given by the Lord who teaches us to pray, they are based upon His promises, and they come from a faith-filled heart. In this way, from beginning to end, prayer is a gift of God's grace for the sake of Christ, the asking, the hearing, and the answering.

**Collect:** *Heavenly Father, Your words give us boldness and confidence to acknowledge You as our true Father and ourselves as Your true children. May Your Holy Spirit lead us to trust in Your fatherly goodness, call upon Your name in every need, and glorify You as the author and giver of every good and perfect gift; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord (Collect for the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer).*

**Hymn:** 419 "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

2 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!

*April 10 - Friday after the Resurrection of our Lord*

READING - EPHESIANS 3:14-21

**Devotion:** The little doxology that we have at the end of the Lord's Prayer before the "Amen" is a wonderful thing. In it we ascribe to the Lord the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. We do this because we, in faith, believe this to be so. He is sovereign, above all things. He is "able to do far more abundantly than all the we ask or think according to the power at work within us" (v. 20). And yet He is the one who has bidden us to come before Him in such a personable and intimate way as to call him Father. Why? Because of His great love for us that He has shown in giving His son into death to save us. This is the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, but has been known to us. Being so rooted and grounded in the love of God we have the strength to comprehend this and to call upon our heavenly Father in prayer and thanksgiving.

**Collect:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, let Your Holy Spirit dwell in us that He may enlighten and lead us into all truth and evermore defend us from all adversities; 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 Friday after the Resurrection of our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

6 Now I will cling forever; To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's dark thrall; I follow Him through all.

*April 11 - Saturday after the Resurrection of our Lord*

READING - 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

**Devotion:** Honor and glory is given to Christ because He came into the world to save sinners. This is trustworthy and sure, sealed with the resurrection of Christ Jesus. And this is of chief importance for you in your Christian life as you live in the time between Christ's resurrection and your resurrection. It is a time of trial and tribulation, of sin and guilt. But it is also a time where you have been reconciled to the Father, payment for your sins has been made and you can call upon God in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks. For Jesus has come into the world to save you.

**Collect:** *Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; 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 after the Resurrection of our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

7 He brings me to the portal; That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal; Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared; Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died; Shall here be glorified."

*April 8 - Easter Wednesday*

READING - PSALM 61

**Devotion:** There is no rock higher than the resurrected body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Death eventually makes an end of all earthly rulers and all securities in life, nor matter how long they may last, will eventually collapse. “The grass withers, the flower fades” the prophet Isaiah writes. But He follows it up with this: “the Word of our God will stand forever” (Is 40:8). The Word was made flesh, crucified for our sins, and is risen from the dead. He now is our refuge against the enemies of sin, death, the devil, and hell. Yes, He has established the civil government to curb and minimize sin, to punish evil and reward good. Yes, we pray for God to give success in such godly endeavors. At the same time we need the “rock that is higher than I” and higher than any earthly ruler, the resurrected King who is champion over death for us.

**Collect:** *Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect of Easter Wednesday).*

**Hymn:** 467 “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

4 Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;

Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.

Grim death with all his might Cannot my soul affright;

It is a pow'rless form, Howe'er it rave and storm.

*April 9 - Thursday after the Resurrection of our Lord*

READING - 2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22

**Devotion:** We return to the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer in light of the Resurrection of our Lord. When we say “Amen” at the end of the Lord's Prayer or any prayer we are saying to whatever we have asked “yes, yes, it shall be so.” Why can we make such a claim. Because Christ is risen from the dead. That is the “Amen” the “Yes, Yes, it shall be so” of all the promises of God. We know it is true, what He has said, what He has promised. Because Christ is raised we know that He is God. Because Christ is raised we know that we are justified by His blood. Because Christ is raised we know that God hears and answers our prayers, for the same Christ who is raised from the dead has taught us to pray in this way and has also promised to hear us.

**Collect:** *Our Father in heaven, grant us certainty to pray according to Your command and in the confidence that You have promised to hear us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for the Thursday after the Resurrection of our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 467 “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

5 The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;

Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.

My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.

Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.

*Feb. 21 - Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

READING - ROMANS 8:12-17

**Devotion:** You pray not as a slave, but as a son. You have been set free. You are not free to do whatever you want. Nor are you free from all suffering in this life. That is actually slavery to your own passions, desires, and fears. That slavery leads to death. But in Christ and led by the Spirit of God you are set free from sin and death, from fear and trepidation. You are free to pray; free to cry out to God as your Father. You are sons as Christ is the Son. This means we suffer with Christ and it means we will be glorified with Christ. It means our suffering has an end just as evil has an end. We will be delivered from all evil and graciously taken to our home in heaven. Come soon Lord Jesus!

**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:** 419 “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

3 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!



Feb. 22 - First Sunday in Lent - Invocabit

INVCOABIT ART - LUCAS H.; PSALM ART - GABRIEL

READING - PSALM 32

**Devotion:** “By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation . . . Help us, good Lord” (The Litany - LSB 288). Our Lord was tempted that you would be blessed, that your transgressions would be forgiven and your sin covered. He is the man who fasted and faced Satan’s assaults that in Him you would be the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity (vs. 2). He withstood the temptation that you have fallen into. He was sinless, we are not. But by His stripes we are healed. In Christ we can truly pray with all boldness and confidence, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin” (vs. 5).

**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:** 418 “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.

2 You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God’s eternal Word.

April 7 - Easter Tuesday

READING - PSALM 2

**Devotion:** Luther writes on this psalm, “Psalm 2 is a prophecy of Christ, that He would suffer, and through His suffering become King and Lord of the whole world. Within this psalm stands a warning against the kings and lords of this world: If, instead of honoring and serving this King, they seek to persecute and blot Him out, they shall perish. This psalm contains the promise that those who believe in the true King will be blessed. This psalm flows from the First Commandment, in which God promises to be our God, who will help us in every trouble and will work all good for us—just as He has, through Christ, delivered us from sin, death, and hell and brought us to eternal life. This blessing is what we pray for in the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer—the His kingdom come” (Reading the Psalms with Luther, 17).

**Collect:** *: Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; 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 Easter Tuesday).*

**Hymn:** 467 “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

3 This is a sight that gladdens--  
What peace it doth impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son  
In love for me hath won.



April 8 - Easter Monday

PSALM ART - CAROLINE

READING - PSALM 16

**Devotion:** Our flesh dwells secure because the crucified flesh of Christ did not see corruption. Our heart is glad because Christ's heart beats. Our whole being rejoices because He is risen. Yet, even as we live in the reality of His resurrection, we face the trials and tribulations of this life. Sin, death, and the devil are ever before us. And so we cry out to the one who overcame death, "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge." And He does. We can pray with boldness and confidence, with all certainty that He will hear and answer. We can say "Amen" that is, "yes, yes, it shall be so" because Christ is risen. He will not abandon us to our sins nor our soul to Sheol, but is truly present among us as He promised giving us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**Collect:** O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal 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 Easter Monday).

**Hymn:** 467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

2 The foe in triumph shouted  
When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed,  
His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save  
Has triumphed o'er the grave.



Feb. 23 - Invocabit Monday

READING - JOHN 17:9-17

**Devotion:** On this day the Church remembers and gives thanks to God for St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr. As one of the Church's first pastors, Polycarp was devoted to studying and teaching the Word of God. That is exactly what we pray for when we pray "Hallowed be Thy name." We pray for God's Word to be taught rightly. Moreover, we pray for our lives to be lived according to that same Word. We have an example of that in St. Polycarp, who lived his life according to the word of God to the point of giving his life for the Word of God. In that way God's name is kept holy among us even as our Lord prayed to His Father for His Church, "Sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth" (vs. 17).

**Collect:** O God, the maker of heaven and earth, You gave boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Savior and steadfastness to die for the faith to Your venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp. Grant us grace to follow his example in sharing the cup of Christ's sufferings so that we may also share in His glorious resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect of the Commemoration of St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr).

**Hymn:** 418 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

3 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.

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

Feb. 24 - Invocabit Tuesday

READING - MATTHEW 18:15-20

**Devotion:** Christ promises to be present with His Church "where two or three are gathered" in His name. Gathered around the Word of God and united by the name of God given to us in our baptism we can have confidence that Christ is with us and our heavenly Father will bless us. To that end Christ has given the apostolic ministry. Just as St. Matthias (whom we remember this day) was chosen by God to replace Judas in the Lord's work preaching and teaching the Word, so does God provide pastors and preachers of that Word today. As we pray for His name to be hallowed we also pray for an increase of that Word and ministry in our midst.

**Collect:** Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for St. Matthias, Apostle).

**Hymn:** 429 "We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"

1 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.

2 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.

*Feb. 25 - Invocabit Wednesday*

READING - NUMBERS 6:23-27

**Devotion:** These familiar words of Benediction from our Divine Service find their origin in the Lord's Words to Aaron the priest and his sons through Moses. It is a divine command and promise to bless God's people and in such blessing to put His name upon the people for blessing. It is the same today. God's name is given through His Word. His Word works because God works through His Word. For the sake of Christ then you can be assured that the Lord blesses and keeps you, makes His face shine upon you and is gracious to you, lifts up His countenance upon you, and gives you peace. We know this only through the Word which He gives and by which He works.

**Collect:** *Holy Father, Your name is holy in itself. We pray that through the words we speak about You and through the lives we live as those marked by Your sacred name in Baptism, we may never profane Your name but honor it in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ our Lord (Collect for the Wednesday of Invocabit).*

**Hymn:** 429 "We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"

3 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.

4 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;

*Feb. 26 - Invocabit Thursday*

READING - ISAIAH 12:1-6

**Devotion:** God's people sing of the salvation of the Lord. We well deserve His anger for our sins, but His anger has turned away and He comforts us with His Gospel of salvation. Such is the content of our praise. The salvation of the Lord, His Gospel, is in the saving name of the Lord. It is in the name of Jesus, for He saves His people from their sins. It is in the strong name of the Trinity given us in our Baptism. We call upon this name in every trouble, We pray, praise, and give thanks, for such we are given to do as God's children. We find true joy then not in our earthly feelings or victories, nor in the strength of man, but in the strength of the God of our salvation His deeds in Christ we make known among the peoples, proclaiming that His name is exalted.

**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:** 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

2 Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, In purity to keep Your Word,  
That to the glory of Your name; We walk before You free from blame.  
Let no false teaching us pervert; All poor deluded souls convert.



*April 5 - The Resurrection of Our Lord*

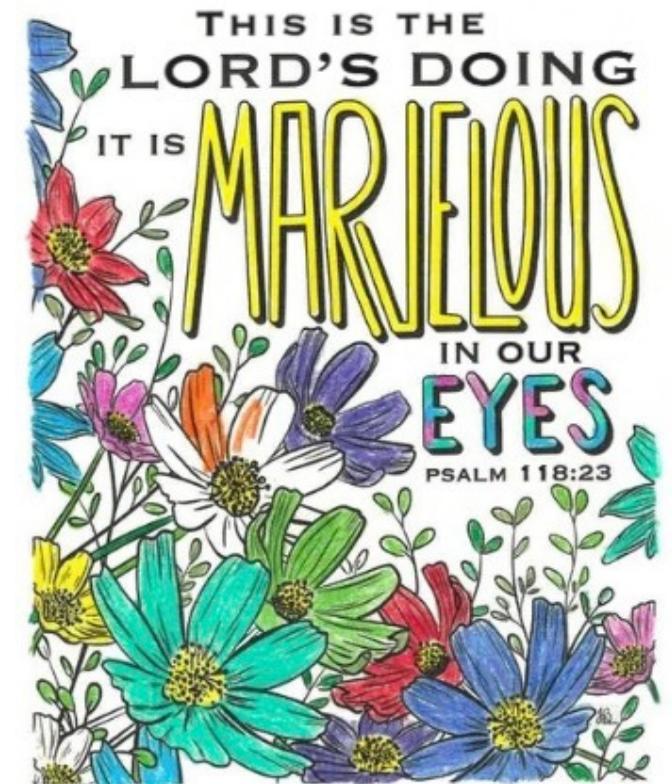
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD ART - ISAAC; PSALM ART - SAVANNAH  
READING - PSALM 118:15-29

**Devotion:** Alleluia Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!. And with what joy we return to the same Psalm we heard on Palm Sunday just a week ago. But we hear it now in light of the resurrection. Christ has come in the name of the Lord. He has conquered by way of His cross. And He is risen again. So we can confess with the psalmist, "The LORD is my strength and. My song; he has become my salvation" (vs. 15). It is all true in the Resurrection. Now we know that "the right hand of the LORD does valiantly" (vs. 16), even as those hands were outstretched on the cross. Now we know that Christ, who was rejected, has become the cornerstone. Now we know that even though He died, being risen again "His steadfast love endures forever" (vs. 29).

**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 Our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,  
See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness,  
Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid  
Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light  
Our spirit wings its flight.





*April 4 - Holy Saturday*

HOLY SATURDAY ART - ANTHONY

READING - MATTHEW 27:57-65

**Devotion:** On the seventh day our Lord rested from all the work that He had done in the redeeming of a sinful world. His body, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary is cared for by Joseph of Arimathea and the women, as we care for the bodies of those we love who have died. He rested in the tomb. Like many who had died before Him and as we lay to rest our loved ones who have died. But by His three day rest in the tomb He has sanctified, made holy, the tombs and graves of those who die in Christ. As He rested so they rest; as He is risen so too shall they arise to greet the Lord on that last day. Though we wait in faith for that great day, even as we wait just another day until Easter, we know it will be so. "Neither could the gates of death/Nor the tomb's dark portal/Nor the watchers nor the seal/Hold Him as a mortal" (LSB 487:4).

**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:** 448 "O Darkest Woe"

1 O darkest woe! Ye tears, forth flow!  
Has earth so sad a wonder,  
That the Father's only Son  
Now is buried yonder!

2 O sorrow dread! Our God is dead,  
He paid our great redemption.  
Jesus' death upon the cross  
Gained for us salvation.

*Feb. 27 - Invocavit Friday*

READING - EZEKIEL 36:22-23

**Devotion:** God is almighty. He has the power to keep His name holy among us. But God is also gracious and merciful, so He is willing to keep His name holy among us. For the sake of His holy name God acted for His people Israel as He spoke through His prophet Ezekiel. He vowed that He would gather His people, that He would cleanse them, that He would give them a new heart and spirit. By the death and resurrection of Christ, God has kept this vow. Through the Word and Sacrament He gathers His people into the Body of Christ, His Church, cleansing them and giving them a new heart and spirit. All this He does not because we have earned or deserved it, but for the sake of His holy name. We pray that His name would be hallowed, and because of His grace alone God hallows it among us also.

**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 Invocavit).

**Hymn:** 427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1 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.

2 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.

*Feb. 28 - Invocavit Saturday*

READING - EXODUS 20:7-11

**Devotion:** We cannot separate hallowing God's name from hearing God's Word (our Sabbath rest), just as we cannot separate the Second Commandment from the Third. Only by gladly hearing and learning God's Word do we know who we should call upon in every trouble and to whom we should pray, praise, and give thanks. The means by which we are strengthened in our faith are found in the Lord's Divine Service to us, in the public preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Simply put, they are found in Church, where we are strengthened in our faith toward God and likewise are strengthened in our love for one another. Would you have God's name hallowed in your life? Hear His Word and love your neighbor whom God has given to you. e to be hallowed we also pray for an increase of that Word and ministry in our midst.

**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 Invocavit).

**Hymn:** 429 "We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance stre  
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the Cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.



*March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent - Reminiscere*

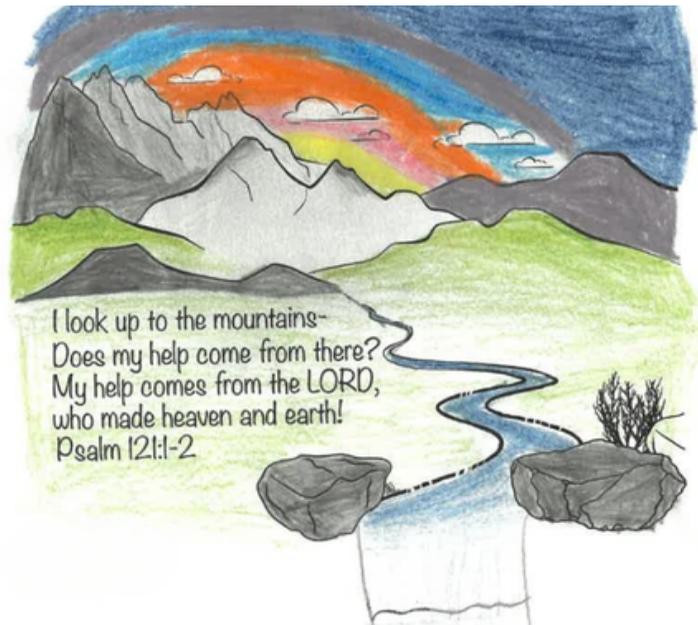
REMINISERE ART - MAREN; PSALM ART - GINNY  
READING - PSALM 121

**Devotion:** This Psalm is great comfort in times of need. Written as a Song of Ascents for the pilgrims to Jerusalem, it begins with eyes lifted up to the hills of Jerusalem. The question, “from where does my help come” is immediately answered: it comes from the Lord of creation. That is who our God is, the one who made heaven and earth. That is who we call upon. We wait in faith for God’s help. Even when it seems as if He does not answer, we know that He does not slumber or sleep, that He is ever-faithful to His promises. So in faith we continue to cry out like the Canaanite woman, and even though we deserve no good thing, we trust in the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father for the sake of Christ, knowing that even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.

**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:** 615 “When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

|                                         |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 When in the hour of deepest need      | 2 Then is our comfort this alone     |
| We know not where to look for aid;      | That we may meet before Your throne; |
| When days and nights of anxious thought | To You, O faithful God, we cry       |
| No help or counsel yet have brought.    | For rescue from our misery.          |



*April 3 - Good Friday*

GOOD FRIDAY ART - VINCE; PSALM ART - JUDE  
READING - PSALM 22

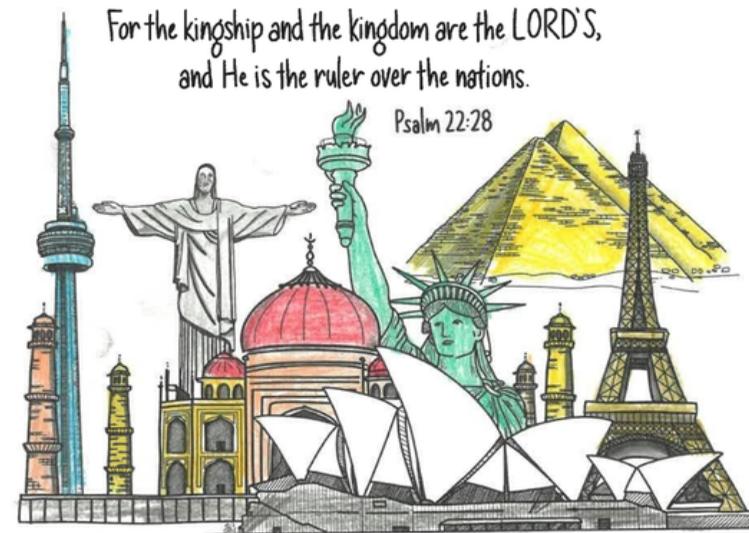
**Devotion:** Luther writes, “The 22nd psalm is a prophecy of the suffering and resurrection of Christ and a prophecy of the Gospel, which the entire world shall hear and receive. Beyond all other texts, it clearly shows Christ’s torment on the cross, that He was pierced hand and foot and His limbs stretched out so that His bones could have been counted. Nowhere in the other prophets can one find so clear a description. It is indeed one of the chief psalms. It belongs in the First Commandment, for it promises a new worship of God. It is in the First and Second Petitions” (Reading the Psalms with Luther, 56). In Christ it is finished, the Scripture is fulfilled and eternal life is won, once and for all. We are delivered from evil.

**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:** 450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

1 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.

7 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.





*April 2 - Holy Maundy Thursday*

MAUNDY THURSDAY ART - CALEB; PSALM - EMMA S.

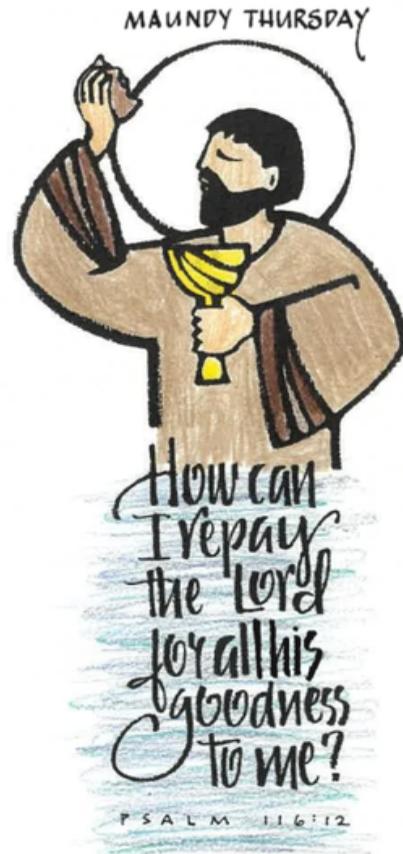
READING - PSALM 116:12-19

**Devotion:** Our Lord lifted up that cup of salvation on the night in which He was betrayed, given the gift of His body and blood in the institution of His most holy Supper. The New Testament in His blood is now given to you as gift and benefit, giving the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this Psalm, He pays His vow, is faithful unto death that you would not die. His death is the most precious so that your death as His holy ones would be precious. He offers the sacrifice of His body that you would offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. He gives His last will and testament and we receive the fruits of His sacrifice, so we journey with Christ through His passion, even as we face our crosses in this life. But we travel through death to life.

**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 reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for Holy Thursday).

**Hymn:** 617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor;  
To please Him with our behavior  
And live as brethren here in love and union;  
Nor repent this blest Communion!  
O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heavenly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
Days of peace and unity  
O Lord, have mercy!



*March 2 - Reminiscere Monday*

READING - COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

**Devotion:** The Kingdom of God, which we pray would come to us, is His reign of faith in our hearts. It is your heavenly Father, by His grace alone, who has brought you from unbelief to faith, from death to life, from darkness to light. This light is Christ, who is the light of the world, light of light, very God of very God. In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins by His Word. He has redeemed you, purchased and won you from the devil's kingdom, that you would live under Him in His kingdom. Christ rules by the forgiveness of sins, so we pray that our heavenly Father would give us more faith by the working of the Holy Spirit, and that Christ would rule all the more in us and for us.

**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 Monday of Reminiscere).

**Hymn:** 615 'When in the Hour of Deepest Need'

3 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.

4 And so 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.

*March 3 - Reminiscere Tuesday*

READING - JOHN 18:33-37

**Devotion:** The Kingdom of Christ is not of this world. Don't let your expectations of His kingdom be the same as what you expect from the world. Christ is King, but He is not that sort of king. His ways are not our ways, His thoughts not our thoughts. He does not rule through violence; His servants do not fight to save this king, but the kingdom suffers violence. But it is through the violence of the cross, through the all-atoning sacrifice of the Christ King upon the cross that His kingdom triumphs over sin, death, and the devil. This is the truth, witnessed by Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You belong to His kingdom; you belong to Him. Remember that when the world seems to triumph, when sin and evil are all around you. Trust His Holy Word. His kingdom is not of this world, and thank God for that.

**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 with 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:** 615 'When in the Hour of Deepest Need'

5 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.

6 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.

*March 4 - Reminiscere Wednesday*

READING - LUKE 12:29-32

**Devotion:** The Kingdom of God is beset with many things that seek to draw you away from it. The cares of this world, the worries of our sinful flesh demand our attention and our fear. Our trust is placed into the things that do not satisfy. But over all our fears and all our anxious toil stands our heavenly Father. He knows what we need better than we do. His knowledge is much broader than our limited perspective and His love is much deeper than what we could imagine or comprehend. So He bids us to seek first His kingdom. To seek His kingdom is to receive from Him what He has to give: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. It is to find ourselves with no fear in the flock of His Holy Church, safe and secure in His fatherly care.

*Collect: Dear Lord, our Good Shepherd, as you bid your flock not to fear but to trust in the good pleasure of the heavenly Father in giving to us the kingdom, so we pray that His kingdom would come among us through the preaching of Your Word and the giving of Your Sacraments. May we continue to seek that kingdom in faith, trusting in your grace, and giving thanks for your mercies which are new ever morning, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for the Wednesday of Reminiscere).*

**Hymn:** 766 “Our Father, Who from Heaven Above”

3 Your kingdom come. Guard Your domain; And Your eternal righteous reign.

The Holy Ghost enrich our day; With gifts attendant on our way.

Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage; Preserve Your Church from age to age.

*March 5 - Reminiscere Thursday*

READING - MATTHEW 13:24-30

**Devotion:** The Kingdom of God remains hidden in this life. It exists among all the evils of the world and in fact with all sorts of evil even within its midst. The enemy, the devil, sows weeds of unbelief among the good seed. Unbelievers exist with believers, hypocrites mixed in with the faithful. It may cause us great fear and frustration. We desire evil to be put away. But the Lord is patient and merciful. He will not have the good destroyed with the bad. He knows His own and there will be a time of judgment, when He will gather the wheat into His barn, gather His saints forever into His kingdom by His grace. Until such time we pray for His kingdom to come and expand, for the weeds to hear the Word, repent, and be saved, and for the good seed to continue to be strengthened and to grow.

*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:** 423 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

1 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.

*April 1 - Wednesday in Holy Week*

ART - VIOLET N.

READING - 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

**Devotion:** St. Paul writes to the Church about being delivered from evil. He requests intercessory pray for the work of the Church, that the Word would “speed ahead and be honored” (vs. 1) that is that it would be received in faith. Prayer is needed because there are those who stand opposed to this work of the Church. Such evil is subtle and such attacks on the Christian often don't appear as heinous or evil, but they are dead set against your eternal salvation and the work of Christ through His Word. We too pray that God would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, possession and reputation. We pray that we would depart in peace from this evil world, be granted a blessed end, dying in faith in Christ. All this we pray in the sure confidence of faith, knowing and believing that the Lord who has destroyed evil by His death on the cross will also guard us against the evil one all the days of our life.

*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:** 438 “We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died”

4 From morn till eve my theme shall be; Thy mercy's wondrous measure;

To sacrifice myself for Thee; Shall be my aim and pleasure.

My stream of life shall ever be; A current flowing ceaselessly,

Thy constant praise outpouring. I'll treasure in my memory,

O Lord, all Thou hast done for me, Thy gracious love adoring.



*March 31 - Tuesday in Holy Week*

ART - JON

READING - MATTHEW 26:36-46

**Devotion:** “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (v.41). How then are we to bear temptation with this weak flesh? In Christ. Jesus is the one “who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). And “because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). Jesus does not tell us to try harder. He says watch, which starts with and flows from watching the Scriptures. In the Scriptures we learn that we’re weak, not strong, sick, not healthy, and thus we do not become overconfident about our abilities. Jesus also tells us to pray. As a sick man lying in bed doesn’t have the strength to get up and help himself, but rather calls upon another to help him, so also we in our weakness call upon Christ. He is able and willing to help the tempted as He is the one who went head to head with the Tempter and conquered in the fight.

**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:** 438 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

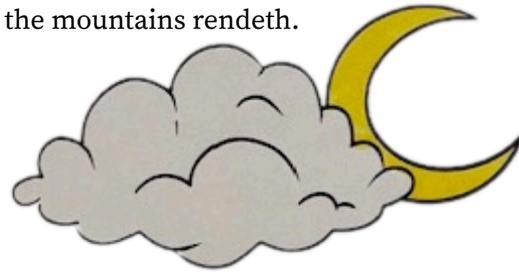
3 "Yea, Father, yea, most willingly; I'll bear what Thou commandest;

My will conforms to Thy decree, I do what Thou demandest."

O wondrous Love, what hast Thou done! The Father offers up His Son!

The Son, content, descendeth! O Love, how strong Thou art to save!

Thou beddest Him within the grave; Whose word the mountains rendeth.



*March 6 - Reminiscere Friday*

READING - MATTHEW 13:31-33

**Devotion:** TAfter the parable of the weeds, Jesus told the parables of the mustard seed and of the leaven. Both of these parables teach that the greatness of the Kingdom of God ought not be measured by worldly standards or with earthly timetables. Small beginnings yield exceptional, though hidden, growth. The Kingdom of God, His reign of faith in our hearts, may seem small, like a mustard seed or a bit of leaven, but by God’s grace He grows it and it produces the fruits of faith. The transforming nature of yeast is quiet and seemingly unnoticed but the yeast does its work. So too, God does His work through His Word. We are given to plant, to speak, teach, and preach. God promises to give the growth, to expand His kingdom, to give and sustain faith even as we continue to pray “Thy Kingdom come.”

**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:** 423 “When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

2 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 hath taught us; Calms the sinner's deep distress.

*March 7 - Reminiscere Saturday*

READING - ROMANS 14:13-18

**Devotion:** As the Kingdom of God is something that comes by His grace, it is not a matter of eating and drinking, it is not a matter of outward and man-made things, but it is a matter of the things that God gives. We cannot avoid the outward and man-made. Eating and drinking are not bad in themselves, but do not confuse these things for the Kingdom of God. His kingdom is a matter of that which comes from His Word and is given by the Holy Spirit: righteousness, peace, and joy. This flows from faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is this righteousness that the martyrs of the Church, such as Perpetua and Felicitas confessed, it is such joy they had even in the face of wild beasts, and it is such peace that they had at their deaths.

**Collect:** *O God and Ruler over all our foes of body and soul, You strengthened Your servants Perpetual and Felicitas, giving them a confidence 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:** 423 “When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

3 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.



March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent - Oculi

OCULI ART - HARPER; PSALM ART - ALEX

READING - PSALM 4

**Devotion:** David complains in this Psalm that people are speaking ill against him. His honor is turned into shame as lies and vain words are spoken about him. The Lord had called, chosen, and set apart David and David trusted in the Lord. But the will of the world was set against God's will and spoke lies in response. The same was true years later when unbelievers spoke lies against our Lord saying, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of Demons" (Luke 11:15). Our Lord does not return evil for evil nor does He speak vain lies in response, but He speaks the truth. We ought to do likewise, taking comfort not in attacking others who speak ill of us, but in what our Lord speaks to those who trust in Him. "The Lord hears when I call to him" (v. 3). And "Blessed . . . are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28)!

**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:** 659 "Lord of Our Life"

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,<br>Star of our night and Hope of ev'ry nation:<br>Hear and receive Your Church's supplication,<br>Lord God Almighty. | 2 See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;<br>See how Your foes their banners are unfurling<br>And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,<br>O Lord, preserve us. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



March 30 - Monday in Holy Week

ART - CORA D.

READING - JAMES 1:12-15

**Devotion:** Is our heavenly Father the sort who would lead us into temptation? Certainly not! The Apostle James writes, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" (v. 13). With this in mind, Luther begins his explanation of the Sixth Petition, "God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us . . ." And yet, it can often feel as if God were tempting us, as if, in allowing us to undergo tribulation and temptation, He were in fact causing the temptation. But remember the will of your heavenly Father. He would not have you led into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice, but He would have you remain firm in His Word and faith all the days of your life. In praying this petition we come to realize that no matter how things seem, God will not forsake us but remains our refuge and strength in temptation's hour.

**Collect:** Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passions 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:** 438 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great Friend, The Lamb of God, our Savior;  
Him God the Father chose to send; To gain for us His favor.  
"Go forth, My Son," the Father saith, "And free men from the fear of death,  
From guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Thy Passion men shall share; The fruit of Thy salvation."





March 29 - Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion - Palmarum

PALM SUNDAY ART - NOLAN; PSALM ART - MATTHEW

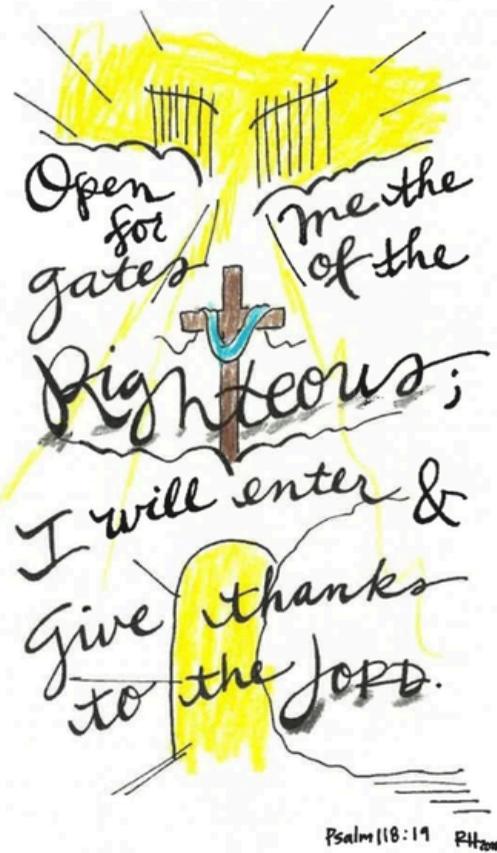
READING - PSALM 118:19-29

**Devotion:** This Psalm was on the lips of those who greeted our Lord in His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (vs. 26). Psalm 118 is one of the liturgical psalms which were sung at major festivals including the Passover. They find their fulfillment when they are prayed to our Lord, the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. He is the cornerstone, rejected by the builders, but the capstone for our salvation. He has become so by His journeying into Jerusalem and to the cross. There the festal sacrifice is bound with cords to the altar of the cross, the sacrifice made, and satisfaction won for our sins. "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (vs. 23-24).

**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:** 438 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of all men bearing;  
And laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing!  
Goes patient on, grow weak and faint, T  
o slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer;  
Bears shame and stripes, and wounds and death,  
Anguish and mockery, and saith,  
"Willing all this I suffer."



March 9 Oculi Monday

READING - JOHN 6:35-40

**Devotion:** Jesus, the Bread of Life come down from heaven, came to do the will of His Father in heaven. In so doing, He also reveals to us what the will of our heavenly Father is, "that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (v. 40). God's good and gracious will is that we be kept firm in His Word and faith until we die. Certainly God is concerned about your day-to-day lives, your family, health, finances. He knows the crosses the you bear and the things you suffer, but God's will for you in this life is much bigger. It is not your temporary comforts or securities but your ultimate salvation. When we pray God's will to be done we pray with faith in His promise that He does love us, has saved us, will keep us, and will raise us on the last day.

**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:** 659 "Lord of Our Life"

3 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:

4 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.

March 10 Oculi Tuesday

READING - LUKE 22:39-43

**Devotion:** On the Mount of Olives in the garden Jesus prays the Third Petition. Christ, the Lamb of God, who is bearing the sins of the world in His body to the altar of His cross, prays for the Father's will to be done in spite of the immense pain and suffering that's awaiting Him in His passion. The will of Christ and the will of the Father are not at odds. Both desire the salvation of mankind. What Christ does in Gethsemane is what He does throughout His earthly ministry. He keeps the Law perfectly for us. He perfectly shows that His love of you and His faith in the Father's will is greater than His love of His own life. This perfect life of love, this righteousness of Christ is ours by faith and we are strengthened by the Word of God.

**Collect:** Merciful Father, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, we acknowledge that Your good and gracious will is done without our prayer. We pray that You would defeat all that opposes Your will: the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. In Your mercy, we implore You to strengthen and keep us firm in Your Word and faith all the days of our lives and bring us at last the inheritance You have prepared for us in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for the Tuesday of Oculi).

**Hymn:** 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

4 Your gracious will on earth be done; As it is done before Your throne,

That patiently we may obey; Throughout our lives all that You say.

Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill; That sets itself against Your will.

*March 11 Oculi Wednesday*

READING - ROMANS 12:1-21

**Devotion:** Because the will of God is contrary to the will of the world, it is not something that can be known or understood by our reason or strength. To the world, which includes our fallen reason, the cross is foolishness and the way of salvation is weakness. So it is the will of God that our minds be transformed by the power of His Word so that we love what God loves and hate what He hates. He does not leave it up to us to determine what is good, acceptable, and perfect. His will is revealed in His Word. Such a Word causes us to see our sins, repent, and confess them. That same Word gives us the Absolution and the ability to arise to live before God in righteousness and purity all our days, holding fast to what is good and living as God's children in faith to Him and love to our neighbors.

**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:** 435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

1 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.

*March 12 Oculi Thursday*

READING - 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

**Devotion:** God's desire comes into sharp focus in this passage from First Timothy. God desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. The salvation of mankind requires the shedding of blood. The wrath of God against sin must be satisfied. It was for this purpose that Christ came as the Lamb of God, pure and holy, who takes away the sin of the world. In His passion and death, Christ pays the price for sin and drinks the cup of wrath that was ours to drink. Now the fruit of His sacrifice is given at our altar through the same blood. We have peace with God which surpasses understanding. It is only through the proclamation of this truth and trust in these words that we are saved. That is God's good and gracious will.

**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:** 435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

2 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.

*March 27 - Judica Friday*

READING - MATTHEW 18:28-35

**Devotion:** The second half of this parable teach us that if we refuse to forgive others, then we ourselves prove that we have rejected God's forgiveness. Those who have received the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith alone will forgive others. The refusal to forgive others is a sign, not of a living faith, but of a dead faith. As Luther puts it in the Large Catechism: "If, therefore, you do not forgive, then do not think that God forgives you. But if you forgive, you have this comfort and assurance, that you are forgiven in heaven. This is not because of your forgiving. For God forgives freely and without condition, out of pure grace, because He has so promised, as the Gospel teaches. But God says this in order that He may establish forgiveness as our confirmation and assurance, as a sign alongside of the promise . . ." (LC III:95).

**Collect:** *Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truths 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:** 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

5 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.

*March 28 - Judica Saturday*

READING - HEBREWS 9:11-15

**Devotion:** As we prepare to enter Holy Week, let us take some time to meditate on the source of our forgiveness - the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because He bore our iniquity and the iniquity of the whole world that we can be forgiven. He took our sin, our guilt, our shame upon Himself, that we might be forgiven. The forgiveness that Christ won for us on the cross is given to us through His Word and Sacrament that we might receive that forgiveness here and now. This is the new covenant and the promised eternal inheritance that we receive by God's grace alone, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest on whom the LORD has laid the iniquity of us all.

**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:** 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

6 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 His home  
But mine the tomb; Wherein He lay.

7 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!

*March 25: Judica Wednesday*

READING - PSALM 32:1-5

**Devotion:** This passage teaches us the blessings of confessing our sin and the danger of not confessing it. The danger of not confessing is in the wasting away of our bones and our strength as one is reduced more and more by sins. The blessing of confessing is the very forgiveness of sins. In humility and faith, a Christian confesses his sin and receives from the Lord blessing— forgiveness, life and salvation. Thus we ask our heavenly Father that He would give all for which we ask by His grace, “for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So, we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.”

*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 of the Annunciation of Our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

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

*March 26: Judica Thursday*

READING - MATTHEW 18:21-27

**Devotion:** The first part of the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant paints a grim picture of our sins, more numerous than the sand on the seashore, pictured here as a debt of money so large that we could never hope to repay it. But then comes the good news: the debt which is far greater than we could imagine is paid in full by God so we are now completely forgiven. The payment for such a debt is explained in the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed in the Small Catechism where we confess that Jesus Christ, my Lord, “has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death.” There is no sin that is not paid for in full because there was nothing lacking in the perfection of Christ who was crucified, no end to the forgiveness that was won with the shedding of His blood.

*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:** 430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

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

*March 13 Oculi Friday*

READING - GALATIANS 1:3-5

**Devotion:** The will of the Father that we be saved also means that we are to be delivered from this present evil age. This means that this world is not our home and is not where our true treasure and inheritance are found. We are strangers and sojourners here and we refuse to make this place our home or to be conformed to the world. This also means that this present age is evil. This has been the case since the fall into sin. Since our Lord’s ascension into heaven the Church has been living in the last days. It is a great temptation to be swayed by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches. We are tempted to neglect God’s Word and to not see the evils all around us. But in the midst of that Paul declares grace and peace to the Church. This comes not from an evil world but from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. He has given Himself to deliver us, ultimately, from the present evil age, which is God’s good and gracious will.

*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:** 435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

3 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.

*March 14 Oculi Saturday*

READING - 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-8

**Devotion:** Many Christians spend hours trying to figure out the specific details about God’s will for their lives that God doesn’t provide in His holy Word. What car to buy, what college to attend, and what socks to wear? Some of these may seem silly but others can leave people in great dread and trepidation. We need not fear. God’s specific will for our lives He has made clear in His Word. In other areas of life there is freedom. However, even in the areas of freedom, God provides us with ample direction. Overarching all of this is the command to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. God guides us by His holy Law. Our sanctification is that we, as forgiven children of God, walk according to His commandments in the many and various decisions that we make throughout our lives, living in His grace in faith to Him and in love to our neighbor.

*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:** 435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

4 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.



*March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Laetare*

LAETARE ART - WESLYNN; PSALM ART - HUNTER

READING - PSALM 132:8-18

**Devotion:** Luther notes that this Psalm is a prayer “for the spiritual and worldly authorities: for God’s Word and temporal peace. For where these both stand well, things go well.” It is for this that we pray in the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread.” We pray for all that we need to support this body and life, but this is prayed in the faith that looks to Christ for all things. He not only provided food in the wilderness to the five thousand, but He Himself is the bread from heaven. He satisfies His people with bread and blesses them with provision. He also clothes His people with righteousness and salvation. All of this comes by God’s grace by way of the Cross, where Christ has reconciled us to the Father who provides His creation out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in us.

**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:** 743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

1 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.



*March 23: Judica Monday*

READING -1 JOHN 1:8-10

**Devotion:** The need for forgiveness of sins is center to all our petitions. Luther put it this way in the Large Catechism, “There is here again great need for us to call upon God and to pray, ‘Dear Father, forgive us our trespasses.’ It is not as though He did not forgive sin without and even before our prayer. (He has given us the Gospel, in which is pure forgiveness before we prayed or ever thought about it.) But the purpose of this prayer is that we may recognize and receive such forgiveness” (LC III:88). It is from the truth that our Lord “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v. 9) that we call upon Him. The freeing declaration of the absolution is the sure confidence we have to stand before our heavenly Father and pray to Him as dear children to a dear father, knowing that He does not hold our sins against us but freely forgives for Christ’s sake.

**Collect:** Most merciful Father, our sins make us unworthy to ask anything of You. For the sake of Your dear Son, do not condemn us for our sins, but hear our cries for mercy and forgive us our trespasses. Enlivened by Your forgiveness, we, too, pledge to sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect of the Monday of Judica).

**Hymn:** 766 “Lord of Our Life”

6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore, that they may trouble us no more;

We, too, will gladly those forgive; Who hurt us by the way they live.

Help us in our community; to serve each other willingly.

] *March 24: Judica Tuesday*

READING - LUKE 23:32-43

**Devotion:** To the world this is one of the most shocking scenes in the Bible. The sinless Son of God hangs between two criminals. He has been mocked, ridiculed, beaten, and nailed to a cross. And yet, even in the midst of all of that, He speaks the words that are at the very heart of who He is and what He came to do: “Father, forgive them . . .” and “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (vs. 34, 43). This is what the Lord does not only for those who witnessed His death, but for each of us. As the hymn goes: “Jesus, in your dying woes/Even while your lifeblood flows/Craving pardon from your foes/Hear us, holy Jesus. Savior, for our pardon sue/When our sins your pangs renew/ For we know not what we do/ Hear us, holy Jesus. Oh, may we, who mercy need/ Be like you in heart and deed/ When with wrong our spirits bleed/ Hear us, holy Jesus” (LSB 447:1-3).

**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 he Tuesday of Judica).

**Hymn:** 430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

2 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!



*March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent - Judica*

JUDICA ART - MADELINE; PSALM ART - BAILEY

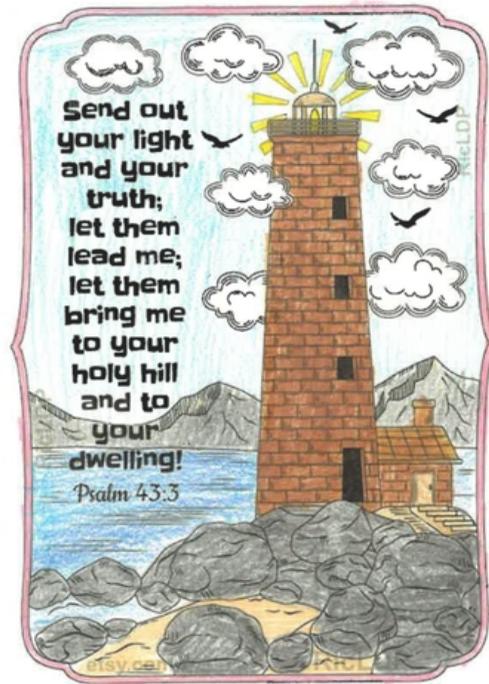
READING - PSALM 43

**Devotion:** Psalm 43 is a prayer for vindication against the assaults of ungodly people. Our Lord Himself faced such assaults and rejection at the hands of the Jews in John 8. He came unto His own and His own people did not receive Him. Furthermore, He faces the ultimate rejection of His heavenly Father on the cross as He bears the sins of the world. He fulfills the psalmists cry "For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me" (v. 2). It may feel at times the same for us. Not only are we troubled by an ungodly people and face persecution, revilement, and rejection, but it even feels as if God has rejected us. But know this, Christ has paid the price and faced the rejection and wrath of the Father that we deserved. Now the light and truth of Christ in His Holy Word leads us and guides us. We are brought to the holy hill and dwelling place of God where He is present with us and for us in His Word and Sacrament. As often as we are assailed, we find our hope in the God of our salvation at His altar to which we go in exceeding joy.

**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:** 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

1 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?



*March 16 - Laetare Monday*

READING - EXODUS 16:1-21

**Devotion:** The Lord provided manna and quail in a miraculous way to His people of Israel in the wilderness. He preserved them in the bodily life by grace alone. He does it even though they grumbled and disobeyed His commands. He is faithful in the face of their unfaithfulness, giving in the face of their unthankfulness. May we be led by His Word to receive our daily bread from Him with thanksgiving.

**Collect:** *Gracious Father, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Teach us to acknowledge You as the Lord who provides for all of our needs in body and soul and so give thanks to You for all of Your bountiful gifts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for the Monday of Laetare).*

**Hymn:** 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

5 Give us this day our daily bread, And let us all be clothed and fed.  
Save us from hardship, war, and strife; In plague and famine, spare our life,  
That we in honest peace may live, To care and greed no entrance give.

*March 17 - Laetare Tuesday*

READING - JOHN 6:1-15

**Devotion:** The Fourth Petition reminds us that our Triune God is the Giver of all good gifts. Our God makes and gives all that is necessary for human life to all people, both righteousness and and unrighteousness. In John 6, our Lord does not imitate the miracle worked through Moses; He transcends Moses. While manna fell from heaven, it bred maggots after only one day, our Lord multiplied loaves and fish to feed thousands with twelve baskets of leftovers kept. Jesus is the Prophet promised in Deuteronomy 18:15. The people recognized this and the gifts Christ freely gave, and yet they focused more on the gifts than the Giver, seeking to make Him their king to provide them bread. Christ is no bread king. While He provides for our physical needs, He came not just to feed the body, but to save both body and soul through His death and resurrection.

**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, how 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:** 743 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

2 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 thunder crash;  
yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

*March 18 - Laetare Wednesday*

READING - MATTHEW 5:43-6:4

**Devotion:** The statement “For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” is a message of the pure and universal grace that our heavenly Father has for all of His creation. He provides for those who believe in Him, are justified by His grace, and walk according to His commandments. He also provides for those who do not know or believe in Him. He also provides for those who adamantly fight against Him and His children. That is grace. And our Lord’s words are clear: you are sons of your heavenly Father, be like Him; love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you. What you have received so give, as you have been loved, so love. We have failed in this. Lord have mercy! And thanks be to God that He does have mercy, forgives our sins, and grants us to love our neighbor in both body and soul.

*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:** 743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

3 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.

*March 19 - Laetare Thursday*

READING - MATTHEW 6:19-24

**Devotion:** All that you have is a gift from your heavenly Father given by His grace. These are good gifts but they are not given to be stored up for yourself. Our lack of fear, love, and trust in God above all things cause us to place our trust in the gifts over the giver. Our Lord points out the folly of this. These things are fleeting. Instead, we are called to fear, love, and trust in the One who gives us the eternal treasure of His Gospel, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life.

*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 of St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord).*

**Hymn:** 743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

4 Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,

Jesus is my choice. Hence all empty glory!

Naught to me the 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.

*March 20 - Laetare Friday*

READING - MATTHEW 6:25-34

**Devotion:** Jesus’ words are not a demand for us to do something (that is, “Quit worrying!”), but a gracious invitation to trust God for all that we need precisely because He has given us salvation in Christ. Life does consist of more than food and clothing for the body. It consists in knowing Christ by faith, of having His body and blood to eat and drink for our salvation, and having His robe of righteousness cover all our sin. Since God has given us these greater gifts in Christ, how much more can we depend upon Him for our temporal needs. And so faith prays, “Give us this day our daily bread” receiving our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by You 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:** 743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

5 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.

*March 21 - Laetare Saturday*

READING - 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15

**Devotion:** The fact that God gives daily bread out of His pure grace is not a call to idleness. Luther once noted that faith is not that which is “waiting until a roasted chicken flies into my mouth.” God has given the gift of work and labor for our own good and for the good of our neighbors. While the Church’s disposition is to give generously to those who are truly in need, the Church is not to come to the material aid of those impenitent Christians in her midst who refuse to work for their daily bread. To continue to feed and clothe such a person does him a disservice, because it gives approval to his impenitence. Instead, we are to exercise love, even tough love, by calling him to repentance for idleness, laziness, and sloth. The Christian who refuses to work is depriving his neighbor, spouse, and children of the gift of love that he properly owes them. We should not weary to do good in this way to our neighbor.

*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 of the Saturday of Laetare).*

**Hymn:** 743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

6 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!