

# Story of Salvation

Lenten Devotions 2026



Grace Lutheran Church  
Summerville, SC

# Introduction

In this devotional, you will find a brief form of prayer for each of the 40 days of Lent. Each day will include a Lenten hymn, reading, and prayer for you to sing or pray by yourself or with others. Enjoy this devotional on its own or use it along with our count-up to Easter paper chain activity.

Feel free to use this devotion at any time of day. You may wish to start your day with this booklet, or perhaps you would like to enjoy the devotion at bedtime. Another option is to do the devotion as you gather to eat your evening meal.

Remember that there will only be devotions for Monday-Saturday, as the Sundays in Lent are little feast days and not part of the 40 days that make up the season.

# Hymns

*February 18-21*

## 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo-ry and sal - va - tion!

February 23-28

423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

## March 2-7

### 431 Not All the Blood of Beasts



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - jice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

## March 9-14

### 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



- 1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.  
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.  
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.  
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,  
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-serv-ing love.  
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.  
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

## March 16-21

### 418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

## March 23-28

### 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

March 30-April 4

433 Glory Be to Jesus sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
5 Oft as earth ex - ult - ing Wafts its praise on high,  
6 Lift we, then, our voic - es, Swell the might - y flood;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
An - gel hosts re - joic - ing Make their glad re - ply.  
Loud - er still and loud - er Praise the pre - cious blood!

# February 18

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Genesis 1

## **Reflection**

God created our world, and it was good and perfect! He created us, male and female, to walk with him in a life of faith toward God and care for the rest of His creation. As we will see tomorrow, the perfection would not last, but God had a plan from the beginning to restore us to that perfect relationship with Him.

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we thank You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Help us to thankful for Your many gifts and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What were the relationships like between Adam and Eve, humanity and the rest of creation, and humanity and God in the Garden of Eden?
- What good gifts of creation are you thankful for?
- How can you thank God for His gift of creation and life every day?

# February 19

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Genesis 3:1-15

## **Reflection**

It didn't take long for the perfection of the Garden of Eden to be broken. God had given every plant and fruit tree to Adam and Eve to eat but commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because it would surely cause their deaths (Genesis 2:17). Adam and Eve were led astray by Satan and ate of the tree, anyway, deciding that God was only keeping the fruit from them for selfish reasons, rather than out of love for them. The result of this disobedience certainly was death—death of the perfect relationship between God and His creation and the eventual death and decay of Adam, Eve, and every human being that would come after them. Thanks be to God that He had a plan to save them from their sin and death! Genesis 3:15 is the first Gospel promise in the Scripture. In this verse, God promises Adam and Eve that He will give them Offspring, Jesus, to defeat the crafty serpent, Satan. This is God's plan of salvation, and we will follow that promise through the Bible as we journey closer and closer to the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection for Adam, Eve, and every person to come, including you!

## **Prayer**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How did the disobedience of Adam and Eve change their relationship to each other, the rest of creation, and God?
- What comfort do you find in knowing that God had a plan from the very beginning to send Jesus to save you from your sin?

# February 20

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Genesis 12:1-3

## **Reflection**

Many years and generations after the fall into sin, we read in Genesis 12 of God calling Abram and sharing again the promise of the Gospel. In the last verse of our reading, God tells Abram that all the families of the earth shall be blessed by the Seed or Offspring that is to come from Abram's line. This promised, blessed Seed is Jesus! In Jesus, God calls people from all the families of the earth to faith and forgiveness. Thanks be to God for His gracious promise!

## **Prayer**

Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your mercy, love, and promise to Abram. Thank You for calling Abram and his family to be Your people and for Your steadfast love for him and all of creation in continuing to promise a Savior in whom all the families of the earth will be blessed. Help us as we go through this Lenten season to remember Your promise and to look with great joy to the fulfillment of Your plan of salvation at Easter; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- God promises Abram that he will be a great nation and that through this nation and line, all families of the earth will be blessed. How are all nations blessed by Abram's descendant, Jesus?
- The promised Jesus would come about 2000 years after the call of Abram. That's a long time to wait! But God was faithful to His people in the waiting. How is God faithful to us as we wait for Easter? As we wait for the Last Day?

# February 21

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Genesis 15:1-6

## **Reflection**

Many years after the promise to make Abram into a great nation, Abram still didn't have a son. He calls out to the Lord asking how this promise will be fulfilled, as he and his wife keep getting older and still haven't conceived a child. God tells Abram that His promise is still true, and that Abram will, indeed, be a great nation. The reading ends with Abram putting his faith in God's promise, and God crediting that faith to him as righteousness. Even though the coming of Jesus is 2000 years away from this moment with Abram, faith in God to do as He promised makes Abram right with God. When God calls us to faith in His promised Son, Jesus, we are made righteous like Abram, and that promise is as sure for us as it was for Abram! Even when we can't see how God will do it, we can trust that He is faithful to His promises. He will surely do it!

## **Prayer:**

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- In what promises of God do we put our faith? What did God promise to do for us by His Son, Jesus?
- How does Jesus' promised death and resurrection make us righteous?

February 22

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# February 23

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Genesis 17:1-4

## **Reflection**

In our lesson today, God appears to Abram again to repeat His promise of a son and to give him a new name and a sign of the everlasting covenant to be the God of Abram and the nations that will come from him. His name, Abram, meant “exalted father,” but this new name, Abraham, meant “father of many nations.” This new name and the covenant of circumcision would always remind Abraham and his offspring of that Genesis 3:15 promise to restore creation through Jesus, the Messiah. The shedding of blood in circumcision would also point to the bloody cost of redemption, foreshadowing the death of Jesus. Redemption would not be free, but it would surely come!

## **Prayer**

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Abraham was 99 years old when he received this renewal of God’s promise to give him a son and make him a great nation—that’s 24 years after his calling in Genesis 12! How would this new name and the sign of circumcision strengthen Abraham to continue to trust the promise?
- What name and signs does God give us to strengthen our faith in His promised salvation through Jesus?

# February 24

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Genesis 21:1-7

## **Reflection**

25 years after the calling of Abraham, God fulfills the promise of a son when Abraham's wife, Sarah, conceives and bears his son Isaac. Thanks be to God! He keeps His promises! And the Genesis 3:15 promise to send our Savior Jesus will continue through Isaac and his own offspring until that time that all the families of the world are blessed by the redemption Jesus brings.

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, through the patriarch Isaac You preserved the seed of the Messiah and brought forth the new creation. Continue to preserve the Church as the Israel of God as she manifests the glory of Your holy name by continuing to worship Your Son, the child of Mary; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What did we read about in our reading from yesterday that would have strengthened Abraham's faith in God and His promises?
- What does the fact that God kept this promise to Abraham and Sarah say about how God will act in His promises toward us (the promise of provision, eternal life, the resurrection from the dead, etc.)?

# February 25

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Genesis 22:1-14

## **Reflection**

God had fulfilled his promise of a son in giving Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, and here we see Him testing Abraham by asking him to sacrifice this same child of promise. Abraham trusts that even though he doesn't know how, God *will* continue the promise of a great nation through Isaac, so he obeys God and goes to offer the sacrifice. But just as he's about to offer his son, God himself gives him a ram to sacrifice instead. What great relief Abraham must have felt! Abraham told Isaac in verse 8 that God would provide the lamb for the burnt offering, and just as he gave the ram in this story, He will later provide an even greater Lamb—his own Son, our Savior Jesus.

## **Prayer**

O God, since you promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- God gave Abraham a ram as a substitute for Isaac. How does this story relate to the substitutionary work of Jesus, the Lamb of God?
- How can we thank God today and every day for His Son, Jesus, who died for us on the cross?

# February 26

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Exodus 1

## **Reflection**

The book of Exodus starts about 500 years after the stories of Abraham and Isaac. The people of God had come to Egypt after a famine forced them to leave the land of Canaan to seek food and survive (this happened when Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, which you should remember from Sunday school). After many years, the people had grown into a great nation, so the Pharaoh was afraid and enslaved them and killed their children. But the promise of salvation was still there for these oppressed people. We will read tomorrow about how God had a plan to save His people from slavery.

## **Prayer**

*Psalm 9:9–10, 18–19a*

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.

And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

Arise, O Lord!

Let not man prevail. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Talk about how God preserved His people in the time of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). How does God preserve us today in the world? In the Church?
- God's people were in slavery, but God's promise to protect them and send them a Savior was still true. How can we be reminded of God's promises for us in hard times?

# February 27

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Exodus 2:1-10

## **Reflection**

“Moses, born of believing Hebrew parents, is raised in Pharaoh’s household and ‘instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians’ (Acts 7:22), enjoying the best of both worlds. Although God is not mentioned, He is accomplishing His purposes to redeem Israel. Even when God does not seem to be at work in our lives, we can be certain that His good and gracious will is being done among us.” -The Lutheran Study Bible, pg. 98

## **Prayer**

O Lord, give us an abiding trust in Your good will that no impatience or suffering of mind or body may weaken our faith in You. Teach us to say, “Thy will be done,” and to accept Your holy and gracious will in all things. Out of the shadows of our doubts and fears, bring the light of Your great mercy toward us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How did God work through Moses’ parents and the daughter of Pharaoh to preserve Moses’ life?
- We do not always see how God is working in our lives, but we know that He is always working for our good, and the highest good for us is to be filled with faith in God and His promises. How does God work to keep us firm in faith so that we can handle the good and bad of life as it comes?

# February 28

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Exodus 2:23-25

## **Reflection**

Years after the story of Moses' birth, the Pharaoh dies, but nothing changes under the new ruler. The people of God cry out to Him for help, and God hears them! The Bible tells us he heard their groaning, remembered His covenant, saw His people, and knew. God understood what His people were going through and was about to act to save them.

## **Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in every situation they may recognize and receive Your gracious help, comfort, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What do we learn from the Israelites about what we should do when we are suffering?
- God promises to hear us when we cry out to Him. How does praying in times of trouble bring comfort?

March 1

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# March 2

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                      431 Not All the Blood of Beasts                      *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                      Exodus 3:1-12

## **Reflection**

As the people of God are crying out to Him for help, God is working to save them. From the burning bush, God calls that same Moses whom He had preserved from Pharaoh's wrath years before to go to Pharaoh and free the Hebrew nation. Moses was scared, but God promised to be with him and guaranteed his success. As we will read tomorrow, the road to salvation was not without trial, but God is always faithful to His promises. His promise to save the Hebrews from slavery would be fulfilled, and the promise to preserve His people and send them Jesus would continue until it's fulfillment, as well.

## **Prayer**

We thank You, O Lord, for hearing, remembering, seeing, and knowing us in our suffering. Just as You acted for Your people in slavery in Egypt, deliver us from our own slavery to sin and death. Send us pastors and teachers like Moses to care for us and share Your promises, and help us to set our eyes and hearts on You in all circumstances; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Who in your life has God given you to point you to Jesus and His salvation?
- How can you love and serve God when those in authority (Pastor, parents, teachers) share with you the truth of God's Word?

# March 3

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Exodus 12:1-13

## **Reflection**

God's plan to rescue Israel involved sending 10 plagues on Egypt to punish them for enslaving God's people. God sends plague after plague, but Pharaoh hardens his heart and refuses to let God's people go. Then God sends the final plague, the death of the firstborn. But God protects the people of Israel. He tells them to kill a lamb and spread its blood around the doors of the houses. They are to cook and eat the lamb along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, dressed in their travelling clothes ready to leave Egypt. The Israelites listen, and the angel of death passes over their homes. However, the Egyptians' homes are struck, including Pharaoh's home. It is after this plague that Pharaoh finally lets the nation of Israel leave.

We call this event the Passover. The Passover lamb points us to our Savior, Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God, who saves us from death.

## **Prayer**

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- God saved His people from death in Egypt by the blood of a Passover lamb. How is Jesus our Passover Lamb?

# March 4

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    431 Not All the Blood of Beasts                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    1 Samuel 16:1-13

## **Reflection**

We have moved another 500 years from God's salvation by the Passover lamb to the anointing of Jesus' ancestor, David, as King. David is often called a man after God's own heart. This is not because David was such a perfect man without sin, but because he was constantly turning to God for life and salvation, especially in times of trouble and sin. God surprised everyone when he chose the youngest and smallest to be King of Israel, but God doesn't choose based on our worth or ability. He chooses us while we are still weak and sinful to be a people for Him, and our worth comes from the new identity He gives us in Christ.

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for choosing us from before the foundation of the earth to be Your children. Help us to live according to Your Word, that our lives would glorify Your name and direct our neighbors to the life and joy You've granted Your Church in Your Son Jesus. In His name we pray. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Who would you expect God to choose to be a king?
- What comfort do we have in knowing that God has chosen us despite our shortcomings and sin?

# March 5

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    431 Not All the Blood of Beasts                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    1 Samuel 17

## **Reflection**

Today's reading is a long one! We see the anointed yet uninstalled king, David, being sent by his father Jesse to see to his brothers in battle. What starts out as a supply mission turns into David being the one to defeat the great Goliath in battle! David proclaims in verse 47 that this victory is not his own, but the Lord's, after which he draws a stone out of his bag and slays the Philistine. This great victory in the face of impossible odds anticipates Jesus' victory on the cross in the face of all the powers against Him. God used the smallest, weakest brother to defeat Goliath, and the message of the cross is the same: God uses what is weak to shame the strong, and the "weakness" of God is stronger than human strength.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, You came in humility and weakness to defeat the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Clothe our weakness with Your righteousness by Your baptismal grace that we might withstand the power of every adversary; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Who gave David the victory over Goliath?
- What enemies were defeated by Jesus' victory on the cross?

# March 6

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            431 Not All the Blood of Beasts                            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Daniel 1:1-10

## **Reflection**

We fast forward another 500 years for today's reading. God's people have once again been taken into captivity, this time in Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar takes the best and brightest of the young Israelites into his palace to train and educate them to advise him on the governance of his new captives. Daniel, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) are chosen for this. But what seems like a good deal quickly becomes problematic when the young men are asked to go against their faith in God in the name of staying out of trouble. Over the next 2 days of readings, we will see how God was faithful to his faithful people and granted them great and surprising victories.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, You promise to help and comfort those who call upon You in the day of trouble. Grant to us Your deliverance in Christ Jesus that by the power of Your Holy Spirit we may not be overcome in adversity but be strengthened to live confidently in Your love and peace. Make us to know that in all things You work for the good of those who love You and that nothing can separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How must the young men have felt to be taken from their homes and drafted into service to the new king?
- What promises of God would have sustained them in this time? Which promises sustain us in trials?

# March 7

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Daniel 3:8-30

## **Reflection**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego find themselves in grave danger when they won't bow down to a false idol. The decree of the king is to cast them into the fiery furnace, but the young men bravely face their sentence, saying, "If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." They knew that whether they lived or perished, God was in control! And they were exactly right that God could save them. When the king looks into the furnace, a fourth man, the Angel of the Lord, is there with them keeping them safe from the flames. Jesus, also, would face trials for His faithfulness to God and He, too, would emerge victorious.

## **Prayer**

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Would it be difficult to stand firm in faith knowing that death is on the table?
- Why can we be confident that not even death can separate us from God?

March 8

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# March 9

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    424 O Christ, You Walked the Road                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Daniel 6:1-24

## **Reflection**

In today's reading, Daniel also finds himself in trouble for refusing to worship anything but the One True God. He is accused, sentenced to death, and sealed in a tomb (of sorts) with a large stone. But when everyone expects the ravenous lions to kill Daniel, God shuts their mouths and keeps him safe! Jesus would also be accused, sentenced to death, and sealed in a tomb, and like but greater than Daniel, He emerged from His tomb alive and vindicated.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You rescued Daniel from the lions' den and the three young men from the fiery furnace through the miraculous intervention of an angel. Save us now through the presence of Jesus, the Lion of Judah, who has conquered all our enemies through His blood and taken away all our sins as the Lamb of God, who now reigns from His heavenly throne with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What parallels do we see between Daniel and Jesus?
- How are we made blameless before God, as Daniel was?

# March 10

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

*see front of booklet*

## **Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

## **Reflection**

500 years after the trials of His people in exile, Jesus is coming into the world in fulfillment of that Genesis 3:15 promise from so long ago. In today's reading, the angel Gabriel comes to tell Mary of all that is to happen. The promised Savior is almost here!

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only Son. Grant that we, who are redeemed by His blood, may share with her in the glory of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How does Mary respond to the angel's words?
- What does it mean that Jesus' kingdom will have no end?

# March 11

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    424 O Christ, You Walked the Road                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Luke 1:39-56

## **Reflection**

Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is carrying John the Baptist in her womb. John leaps when he sees that his Savior has come! Mary then utters the beautiful words of the Magnificat, praising God for His mercies to her and to all people, recalling the promises made to Abraham and his offspring of the redemption of Israel. Jesus has come to fulfill those promises for the Israelites and all people.

## **Prayer**

O Lord, let Your ears be attentive to the voice of our cry, for there is forgiveness with You that You may be feared. By Your unfailing love deliver us from all our sin that our hope may be in You and in Your full redemption; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Who did God say would be blessed by Abraham and his offspring?
- How are all families of the earth blessed through Jesus?

# March 12

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

*see front of booklet*

## **Reading**

Luke 2:1-21

## **Reflection**

Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! The angel announces this birth to the shepherds and says that it is good news of great joy that will be for all the people. In the city of His ancestor, David, Jesus the promised Savior is born. Thanks be to God!

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What connections can you make between king David, his victory over Goliath, and the coming of Jesus?
- How is the birth of Jesus good news of great joy for all people?

# March 13

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    424 O Christ, You Walked the Road                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Luke 2:22-32

## **Reflection**

When Jesus is presented at the temple, He and His parents are fulfilling the law of God. Jesus will go through His whole life without sin, submitting Himself to His Father's will at every turn. The perfection and holiness of Jesus is applied to each and every one of us at our baptism. As Genesis 3 shows, we are incapable of keeping the law perfectly, so God always had a plan to send His perfect Son to do what we could not and to free us from the consequences of sin.

## **Prayer**

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Why did Jesus need to come to fulfill the law?
- God gives us the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and produce fruits of faith. What other tools does God give us to help us in living a God-pleasing life?

# March 14

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    424 O Christ, You Walked the Road                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Matthew 3:13-17

## **Reflection**

In Jesus' Baptism, He connects Himself to our humanity so that He could be our substitute and Savior. He took up the sins of the world in His Baptism, taking their burden upon Himself as He journeys to the cross to defeat the powers of sin, death, and hell.

## **Prayer**

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What great joy do we have in knowing that Jesus has united Himself to us, taking our sins and replacing them with His righteousness?
- When were you baptized? How can we remember our baptism daily?

March 15

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# March 16

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Luke 4:38-44

## **Reflection**

After Jesus was baptized, He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, and then He spent three years teaching and performing miracles. These miracles teach us about heaven and reveal Jesus' power to restore the shattered creation. Jesus' miracles showed His power, but they were only a foreshadowing of His ultimate goal. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus would promise and give new and eternal life, first in heaven and then in the new creation, to all who believe in Him.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, You taught and performed miracles throughout Your years of ministry thereby directing people to the truth of Your eternal kingdom. Help us to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your truths, they we may firmly place our faith in Your cross and resurrection and be strengthened in faith to the last day; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What do the teachings and miracles of Jesus show us about who God is and how He loves His creation?
- How is spiritual healing more precious than healing of earthly wounds and diseases?

# March 17

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Luke 22:1-23

## **Reflection**

We return today to the Passover of the book of Exodus. The remembrance meal of the Passover was important to the Jews throughout the time between the actual event and the coming of Christ. In observance of this celebration, we see Jesus celebrating this meal with His disciples. But He also does something new here in instituting the Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, by which He brings forgiveness to His people, continuing his saving work beyond His earthly ministry. God had plans not only to save us, but to give us gifts to remember His saving work and keep us firm in faith always.

## **Prayer**

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Recall the Passover in the Old Testament. What happened at that time? How did God save His people
- How is Jesus our Passover Lamb?
- God gives us the Lord's Supper to forgive sins and strengthen faith. What else does He give us to sustain us in faith until we die?

# March 18

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Luke 22:39-46

## **Reflection**

As Jesus gets closer and closer to the cross, we see Him praying on the Mount of Olives. He prays to the Father, “If you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” Jesus knew that this coming crucifixion would be agony, but He also knew that this was the plan for salvation from eternity. An angel comes and ministers to him to strengthen Him for what is to come, and He is committed to go through with it, united to His Father’s will.

## **Prayer**

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Jesus was fully God and fully man. Here we see Him experiencing dread at the thought of what is to come. How is it comforting to know that Jesus also struggled with temptation?
- What does it mean for us that Jesus struggled with temptation, yet never failed?

# March 19

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Luke 22:47-54

## **Reflection**

The scripture reading for today continues the story of Thursday night, when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and prayed in the garden. Now, Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, and Jesus, in mercy, heals the servant's ear when his overeager disciples try to prevent what is to come. But what the enemies of Jesus mean for evil and what Jesus' disciples fear, God is using for our good. The conflict between Jesus and the forces of darkness is escalating, but God uses this dark night of betrayal to overcome the darkness of sin and death and usher in His everlasting light.

## **Prayer**

May Your light, O Christ, disperse the night of Satan, that we remain faithful to You.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How did the events that Satan meant to destroy Jesus bring us victory?
- What darkness does Jesus disperse in our lives?

# March 20

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Luke 23:1-25

## **Reflection**

When day breaks on Friday, the Jewish leaders bring Jesus before Pilate, seeking a death penalty. Pilate and Herod declare Jesus innocent, but while they don't think He's a criminal, they also do not believe in Him as Lord. Not believing that He is the Son of God and Savior, Pilate releases the criminal Barrabas and hands Jesus over to be crucified. Innocent Jesus is sentenced to die in place of us, who are genuinely guilty. His precious life atones for our sins.

## **Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Pilate and Herod don't think Jesus is guilty, but they also don't believe that He is the Son of God and Savior. Faith comes through hearing the Word. Who in Your life has brought the Word to you that you might believe the truth about Jesus?
- A criminal is released and Jesus is crucified. How is this a picture of what Jesus does for us?

# March 21

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days            *see front of booklet*

**Reading**            John 18:33-40

## **Reflection**

In another account of Jesus' trial, we see Pilate trying to talk to Jesus to get to the bottom of the issues that the Jewish leaders have with Him. Jesus is, indeed, King, and yet His kingdom is not an earthly one. The promise of salvation in the Old Testament wasn't just about freedom from slavery in Egypt or captivity in Babylon. It was a salvation from sin and its consequences—death and hell. The plan of salvation from eternity was that Jesus would come to set the captives free forever, not just for their lives on earth.

## **Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Recall the story of the garden. What effects of sin did Jesus come to defeat?
- How is the promise of salvation in eternity better than the promise of earthly safety and security?

March 22

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# March 23

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    436 Go to Dark Gethsemane                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Luke 23:26-42

## **Reflection**

As Jesus hangs on the cross awaiting death, 2 criminals hang with Him—one who mocks, and another who recognizes Jesus for who He is. Jesus was crucified that we may be spared the coming judgment, hear His word of absolution, and enter into paradise with Him. This is the plan of salvation. We all justly deserve God’s judgment because of our sinful deeds. Yet, because Jesus sacrificed Himself for us all, we have His word of absolution and the promise of being with Him in paradise.

## **Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What comfort is there for us in Jesus’ promise to the criminal who asks Him to remember him in His kingdom?
- Jesus says the man will be in paradise “today.” When we die, when will we be gathered up to be with Jesus?

# March 24

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

*see front of booklet*

## **Reading**

Luke 23:44-46

## **Reflection**

This short reading records Jesus giving up spirit in His last moments of life (for now).

The plan of salvation has led Jesus to the tree of death, the cross, which He has now made into our tree of life. On the way, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises we examined in our earlier readings.

## **Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What connection can we see between the tree in Genesis and the tree of the cross?
- This may look like an ending, but we know that there is more to the story. What is going to happen on Easter morning?
- How does the cross give us life?

# March 25

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

*see front of booklet*

## **Reading**

Isaiah 53:1-6

## **Reflection**

We return to the Old Testament to read the prophecy of Isaiah concerning Jesus and the great cost of the plan of salvation for us.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, heavenly Father, through the prophet Isaiah, You continued the prophetic pattern of teaching Your people the true faith. Grant that Your Church may see in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the final end-times prophet whose teaching and miracles continue in Your Church through the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Read through the prophecy. Where do we see Jesus here?
- Who is Isaiah talking about when he says that “all we” have gone astray? Upon whom was our iniquity laid?

# March 26

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    436 Go to Dark Gethsemane                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Isaiah 53:7-12

## **Reflection**

We return to the Old Testament to read the prophecy of Isaiah concerning Jesus and the great cost of the plan of salvation for us.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, heavenly Father, through the prophet Isaiah, You continued the prophetic pattern of teaching Your people the true faith. Grant that Your Church may see in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the final end-times prophet whose teaching and miracles continue in Your Church through the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Read through the prophecy. Where do we see Jesus here?
- Isaiah says in verse 10 that it was the will of God to crush Jesus. How long has this plan for salvation been in place?

# March 27

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    436 Go to Dark Gethsemane                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Luke 24:1-12

## **Reflection**

After His death on the cross, Jesus was sealed in a tomb with a large stone. But He didn't stay dead. This reading takes us to His empty tomb and to what His resurrection means for our lives today and for our future. In Jesus' death, death itself, which has stalked God's creation since Adam and Eve's fall, has been forever defanged. The plan of salvation has come to an amazing climax! Jesus lives!

## **Prayer**

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- The disciples couldn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead, but it was true! Death could not hold our Savior, Jesus. Do we ever fail to believe the promises of God because they are impossibly good?
- What things does God use to work faith in our hearts so we can believe His promises?

# March 28

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    436 Go to Dark Gethsemane                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    John 20:11-18

## **Reflection**

Today's resurrection story takes us to Mary Magdelene at the tomb. Jesus leads Mary to recognize Him, and she goes to tell the disciples she has seen the Lord. Mary's sorrow and tears are turned to joy when she realizes her Savior lives. When death confronts us, sorrow and a sense of loss may overcome us, too. But because Christ is risen, Christians can confidently assure one another that God will wipe away our tears.

## **Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How does Jesus comfort us when someone dies in faith?
- Jesus' death and resurrection assures us of our own eternal life in Him. As Mary told the disciples, who can we tell about Jesus' victory?
- How is our telling others about Jesus part of God's plan of salvation for the world?

March 29

*No devotion today.*

*Enjoy your Sunday!*

# March 30

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Acts 2:22-36

## **Reflection**

We are now looking beyond the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension into heaven, and we see Peter here preaching about everything that has happened. He shows from the Scriptures—from those Old Testament promises now fulfilled—that Jesus is Israel’s Lord and the Savior of the nations. Thanks be to God!

## **Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- What promises did Jesus fulfill?
- How do the Scriptures testify to who Jesus is?

# March 31

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Acts 2:37-41

## **Reflection**

We see the reaction to Peter's sermon in this reading. The true Word of God through Peter works faith in the hearts of the listeners! They are moved to faith and are told to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. And this promise isn't just for the hearers, but for their children and all people. The plan of salvation continues beyond the resurrection of Christ through His Church speaking the truth about all that has happened so that many more people may come to faith and be saved.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Peter tells his hearers to repent and be baptized. What is repentance?
- What does God do for us in our baptism?

# April 1

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

*see front of booklet*

## **Reading**

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

## **Reflection**

This reading isn't from a sermon, but a letter written by the apostle Paul to encourage and correct the church in Corinth. In this passage, Paul proclaims the resurrection of Christ and what it means for us. Jesus has been raised, and we will also be raised! Thanks be to God!

## **Prayer**

O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- How do we know Christ was raised from the dead?
- Who are those who belong to Christ who will be raised on the last day?

# April 2

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6                    *see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Romans 3:19-30

## **Reflection**

In this letter to the church in Rome, Paul tells his readers how the salvation worked by Jesus in His perfect life, death, and resurrection are applied to us. We are not saved by anything we do, but by everything Christ has done for us. In His divine forbearance, God has wiped away our sins by the blood of His Son, Jesus. And this great deliverance is not only for the nation of Israel, but for all people who would hear and believe. God applies Christ's righteousness to us by faith.

## **Prayer**

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- Who has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?
- Are any people saved by their works? How are all saved?

# April 3

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**            433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**            Revelation 21:1-8

## **Reflection**

These final 2 readings are a look at the end of human history in this present world—the day when Jesus Christ will return from heaven to raise all the dead and judge all humanity. This reading gives a preview of the glorious promise to all believers that Jesus will restore His perfect creation and that we will live with Him forever, feasting from the tree of life. The plan of salvation doesn't just end in heaven, but in eternal life with God in the new creation.

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- The promise of heaven is a great joy, but God has had the resurrection and new creation in store for us from the beginning! How does the resurrection of our bodies and the recreation of the world relate to the stories of the creation of the world and the fall into sin?
- Which promises in this passage stand out to you? Why?

# April 4

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**                    433 Glory Be to Jesus vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

*see front of booklet*

**Reading**                    Revelation 22:1-5

## **Reflection**

These final 2 readings are a look at the end of human history in this present world—the day when Jesus Christ will return from heaven to raise all the dead and judge all humanity. This reading gives a preview of the glorious promise to all believers that Jesus will restore His perfect creation and that we will live with Him forever, feasting from the tree of life. The plan of salvation doesn't just end in heaven, but in eternal life with God in the new creation.

## **Prayer**

O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers for ourselves and others may be spoken here*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection Questions:**

- We see additional promises about what the resurrected life will be like in these verses. Which promises in this passage stand out to you? Why?
- Review the stories and links in the plan of salvation that God has had in place from the beginning. What new insights or truths have impacted you?