

Christ Lutheran Church

LENTEN

DEVOTIONALS



*Our goal during the 2010 Lenten season is for everyone at Christ Lutheran to experience the Word of God **more** in their daily lives.*

Following a simple outline, this daily devotional offers an opportunity for our whole congregation to read, pray, and discuss the same text during these 40 days of Lent. The opening and closing prayers and the chosen Bible verses (using the New International Version) will focus on a new theme each week to help us reflect on the life of Christ and prepare our hearts for the great joy of Easter.

Jesus Ministry Begins

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we join with others in our church to study Your Word, You promise to be with us. May You quiet our minds and open our hearts to hear and understand today's scripture. Guide us on this journey, helping us to see You and Your will in our everyday lives. We thank and praise You for the many blessings You have provided, and ask that You give us courage, strength and healing as we walk with You to the cross during these 40 days of Lent.

In the name of Jesus, Your loving Son, Amen.

Read the Scripture for the Day

Reflection: Using Christ Lutheran's mission statement

*"Alive in the Love of Christ
Hopeful in the promises of Christ
Active in the service of Christ"*

as a guide, what is today's scripture saying to me?

- 1) How does Christ's love **come alive** in these verses?
- 2) Where do I see **hope** in His promises?
- 3) What about this scripture moves me to **act** in service to Him and others?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you Lord for this time with You. May Your scripture empower us today to live as Your people, rejoicing in Your love, and reaching with Your grace for those around us. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, strengthen us on this journey, now and always. Amen.

Matthew 3:13 - 4:11

The Baptism of Jesus

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

1Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 7Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Pray that the Holy Spirit will fall on us, and guide us as we continue this study throughout Lent

Reflections about today's scripture:

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

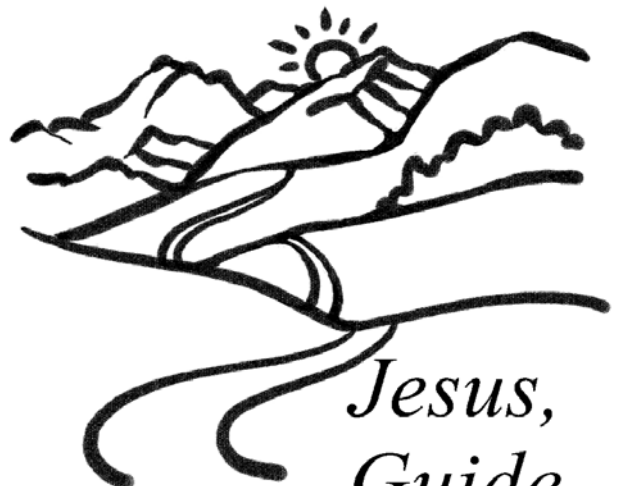
See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die,
And find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, My life, my all!

Words by Isaac Watt, Chris Tomlin,
Jesse Reeves and J.D. Walt



Jesus,
Guide
Our Journey

Saturday

February 10, 2010

Matthew 5:13-16

Salt and Light

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

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Pray that by the grace of Christ we may shine in His love so that others will know Him

Reflections about today's scripture:

Thursday

February 18, 2010

Luke 5:1-11

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Genesareth,^[a] with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ²he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down^[b] the nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Pray that we trust Jesus and "let down our nets" when we have doubts in our lives

Reflections about today's scripture:

Matthew 5:1-12 & Luke 6:20-26

The Beatitudes

¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them saying:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6:20-26

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when men hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil, because of the Son
of Man.

²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Pray for those who may be struggling in
their day-to-day lives

Reflections about today's scripture:
