

Saturday

March 13, 2010

John 10:11-15

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Jesus is our shepherd— always caring for us, supporting and providing for us.

Reflections about today's scripture:

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.

Week 3 - What is God Like

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. Throughout this week's lessons, we see Your extreme love for each of us. You rejoice when we "come home", caring and providing for us everyday. May we feel Your ever present love surround us, and in thanksgiving may we be inspired to pass on Your love to others in our families and community. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, strengthen us on this journey, now and always. Amen.

Thursday

March 11, 2010

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, Seek, Knock

⁷"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Remember that the Lord answers our prayers

Reflections about today's scripture:

Sunday continued

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

For a compassionate heart and a welcoming spirit even for those who may have "gone astray" in our lives

Reflections about today's scripture:

Monday

March 8, 2010

Luke 13:34

³⁴"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

May we help and care for the children, especially the needy in the North Marion School District

Reflections about today's scripture:

Tuesday

March 9, 2010

Luke 15:1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

Help us remember the need for repentance in our lives and how Jesus welcomes us with joy.

Reflections about today's scripture:

Wednesday

March 10, 2010

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

¹Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Today's Prayer Focus & Reflections:

The Lord promises to bring compassion and justice to those who call on Him. Help us to be faithful.

Reflections about today's scripture:
