

Remember This Day

Confessing the Creed through the Church Year



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lent 2024 Devotional

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Thus starts the familiar words of the Apostles' Creed, confessed by Christians for the past 2000 years. In these opening twelve words we confess the first chapter of Genesis, including the fact that God created time. He put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to mark the days, months, years, and seasons. He spent six days creating and one day resting to give us a pattern for our week.

This year's Lenten theme is very much about time and what we confess by how we fill and organize our time. It's about the intersection between confessing and doing.

In Exodus 13, Moses gives instructions to the Israelites regarding the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He tells the people to "remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place." Every year they are to celebrate this feast. Why? To remember what the LORD has done and to teach it to their children. This was now their story and how they were to mark time.

This is the same rationale behind the Church Year. Year after year we remember and confess that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Christmas). That He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried (Lent and Holy Week). The third day He rose again from the dead (Easter). He ascended into heaven (Ascension). We remember the giving of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). We spend half the year talking about Jesus' work through the Church (Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins) and then end by talking about the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting (Advent).

The prayer for this devotion and for this Lenten theme is to teach us how to inhabit the Christian story so that we revolve our minds more so to the Christian faith more than any other calendar. We have a lot of calendars that we view our life in: School, Sports, Work. Instead of thinking of workweeks, and weekends, the Church Year teaches us to think in terms of our redemption and our place in it. May God grant that to you and to me to fully live this Christian faith, even by how we view time! Amen.

How to Use this Devotional

This year's devotional goes through the Church Year. It starts with the second Sunday of Easter and goes all the way through the different seasons until we arrive back at Easter. The readings are the appointed readings for that day in the Church year (according to the historic one-year lectionary). These are the readings you can expect to hear read in Church. While there have been variations to the lectionary over the centuries, the basic form has been used by Christians for over 1300 years. Many of the principal feast days can be dated back to the early Church.

The lectionary takes us through the principle life events of Christ (Advent-Ascension) and His major teachings (Pentecost/Trinity season). It summarizes the teaching of the Bible and what we confess in the Creed.

Each day it is recommended that you take the time to read each reading (there are usually four, though many weeks will have an alternative reading). The first reading is generally from the Old Testament, the second from the Psalms, the third from the Epistles, the fourth from the Gospels. If you are short on time, just read the appointed Gospel reading. The readings usually connect to some main theme (ie. The 3rd Sunday of Easter is all about Jesus as Good Shepherd).

The Church Year and the lectionary are wonderful resources to teach and confess the faith. We hope you gain a greater appreciation of this treasure of the Church.

Easter

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Easter means East: Christians face East as the Son Rises
March 31-May 18, 2024
Color: White

Major Feast Days: Good Shepherd Sunday (Varies), Ascension of our Lord (40 days after Easter)

Important Saint Days: St. Mark (April 25), St. Athanasius (May 2).

Note: Easter is a 50-day season where we celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ. The Latin names for the weeks of Easter (in parentheses) are named because of the Introit for that week. The Introit in the ancient church was the start of the service, and so the service name was derived from the first word spoken, like how our hymns are named.

February 1 - 2nd Sunday of Easter (Quasimodo Geniti-like newborn infants 1 Peter 2)

Ezek. 37:1–14

Psalm 33

1 John 5:4–10

John 20:19–31

February 2 - 3rd Sunday of Easter (Misericordias Domini -full of the steadfast love of the Lord Psalm 33) – Good Shepherd Sunday

Ezek. 34:11–16

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:21–25

John 10:11–16

February 3 - 4th Sunday of Easter (Jubilate- make a joyful noise to the Lord Psalm 66)

Isaiah 40:25– 31 or Lam. 3:22–33

Psalm 147:1– 11

1 Peter 2:11–20 or 1 John 3:1–3

John 16:16–22

Sunday, February 4 - 5th Sunday of Easter (Cantate-O Sing to the Lord Psalm 98)

Isaiah 12:1–6

Psalm 66:1–8

James 1:16–21

John 16:5–15

February 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter (Rogate from the Latin word to “ask” or pray)

Num. 21:4–9

Psalm 107:1–9

James 1:22–27 or 1 Tim. 2:1–6

John 16:23–30 (31–33)

February 6 – Ascension

2 Kings 2:5–15

Psalm 110

Acts 1:1–11

Mark 16:14–20 or Luke 24:44–53

February 7 - 7th Sunday of Easter (Exaudi- Hear! Psalm 27)

Ezek. 36:22–28

Psalm 51:1–12

1 Peter 4:7–11 (12–14)

John 15:26— 16:4

Pentecost/Trinity

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,

May 19-November 3, 2024

Color: Red for Pentecost and Reformation, White for Trinity and All Saints, Green for the rest

Major Feast Days: Day of Pentecost (50 days after Easter), Holy Trinity Sunday (Sunday after Pentecost), The Visitation (July 2). Michaelmas (Sept. 29). Reformation (Oct 31).

All Saints Day (Nov. 1)

Important Saint Days: Esther (May 24th). Elisha (June 14). St. John the Baptist's Birth, (June 24). St. Peter and Paul (June 29). St. Mary, Mother of our Lord (Aug. 15).

St. Michael and all Angels (Sept. 29).

Note: Pentecost celebrates the Holy Spirit's work in the Church. From entering God's kingdom to the final entrance when Jesus comes again. Pentecost is called the non-festive half of the church year. This time of the year focuses on the Mission and spread of the Gospel. Thus many readings are focused on the teachings of Jesus and about the Kingdom of God.

February 8 – Pentecost

Gen. 11:1–9

Psalm 143

Acts 2:1–21

John 14:23–31

February 9 – Trinity

Isaiah 6:1–7

Psalm 29

Rom. 11:33–36

John 3:1–15 (16–17)

February 10 – 1st Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 15:1–6

Psalm 33:12– 22

1 John 4:16–21

Luke 16:19–31

Sunday, February 11 – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Prov. 9:1–10

Psalm 34:12– 22

1 John 3:13–18 or Eph. 2:13–22

Luke 14:15–24

February 12 - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Micah 7:18–20

Psalm 103:1– 13

1 Peter 5:6–11 or 1 Tim. 1:12–17

Luke 15:1–10 or Luke 15:11–32

February 13 - 4th Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 50:15–21

Psalm 138

Rom. 8:18–23 or Rom. 12:14–21

Luke 6:36–42

February 14 - 5th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19:11–21

Psalm 16

1 Peter 3:8–15 or 1 Cor. 1:18–25

Luke 5:1–11

February 15 - 6th Sunday after Trinity

Ex. 20:1–17

Psalm 19

Rom. 6:(1–2) 3–11

Matt. 5:(17–19) 20–26

February 16 - 7th Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 2:7–17

Psalm 33:1–11

Rom. 6:19–23

Mark 8:1–9

February 17 - 8th Sunday after Trinity

Jer. 23:16–29

Psalm 26

Rom. 8:12–17 or Acts 20:27–38

Matt. 7:15–23

Sunday, February 18 - 9th Sunday after Trinity

2 Sam. 22:26–34

Psalm 51:1–12

1 Cor. 10:6–13

Luke 16:1–9 (10–13)

February 19 - 10th Sunday after Trinity

Jer. 7:1–11 or Jer. 8:4–12

Psalm 92

1 Cor. 12:1–11 or Rom. 9:30–10:4

Luke 19:41–48

February 20 - 11th Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 4:1–15

Psalm 50:7–23

1 Cor. 15:1–10 or Eph. 2:1–10

Luke 18:9–14

February 21 - 12th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 29:17– 24

Psalm 146

2 Cor. 3:4–11 or Rom. 10:9–17

Mark 7:31–37

February 22 - 13th Sunday after Trinity

2 Chron. 28:8– 15

Psalm 32

Gal. 3:15–22

Luke 10:23–37

February 23 – 14th Sunday after Trinity

Prov. 4:10–23

Psalm 119:9– 16

Gal. 5:16–24

Luke 17:11–19

February 24 – 15th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 17:8– 16

Psalm 146

Gal. 5:25—6:10

Matt. 6:24–34

Sunday, February 25 - 16th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 17:17– 24

Psalm 30

Eph. 3:13–21

Luke 7:11–17

February 26 - 17th Sunday after Trinity

Prov. 25:6–14

Psalm 2

Eph. 4:1–6

Luke 14:1–11

February 27 - 18th Sunday after Trinity

Deut. 10:12–21

Psalm 34:8–22

1 Cor. 1:(1–3) 4–9

Matt. 22:34–46

February 28 – 19th Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 28:10–17

Psalm 84

Eph. 4:22–28

Matt. 9:1–8

February 29 - 20th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:1–9

Psalm 27:1–9

Eph. 5:15–21

Matt. 22:1–14 or Matt. 21:33–44

March 1 - 21st Sunday after Trinity

Gen. 1:1–2:3

Psalm 8

Eph. 6:10–17

John 4:46–54

March 2 - Reformation Sunday

Rev. 14:6–7

Psalm 46

Rom. 3:19–28

Matt. 11:12–19 or John 8:31–36

Sunday, March 3 - All Saints Sunday

Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17

Psalm 149

1 John 3:1–3

Matt. 5:1–12

Advent

I believe in.....

the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Advent means: to come/arrive

November 6-December 24, 2023 (We use a 7 week Advent)

Color: Blue/Violet

Major Feast Days: None

Important Saint Days: St. Andrew (Nov. 30). St. Nicholas (Dec 6). St. Lucia, (Dec 13).
Adam & Eve (Dec. 19). St. Thomas (Dec 21).

Note: Advent is focused on preparing and hoping for the return of Jesus Christ in glory. It is the start of our calendar year as Christians. Advent is the start of the New Church Year. In our context at Christ Lutheran, we have brought back the 7 week long Advent.

March 4 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Exodus 32:1–

20 or Job 14:1– 6

Psalm 14 or Psalm 102:1– 13

1 Thess. 4:13– 18

Matt. 24:15–28 or Luke 17:20–30

March 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Daniel 7:9-14

2 Peter 3:3-14

Matthew 25:31-46

March 6 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 65:17–25

Psalm 149

1 Thess. 5:1–11

Matt. 25:1–13

March 7 – 4th Sunday of Advent (Ad Te Levai)

Jer. 23:5–8

Psalm 24

Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14

Matt. 21:1–9

March 8 – 5th Sunday of Advent (Populus Zion)

Mal. 4:1–6

Psalm 50:1–15

Rom. 15:4–13

Luke 21:25–36

March 9 - 6th Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)

Psalm 85

1 Cor. 4:1–5

Matt. 11:2–10 (11)

Sunday, March 10 - 7th Sunday of Advent (Rorate Coeli)

Deut. 18:15–19

Psalm 111

Phil. 4:4–7

John 1:19–28 or Luke 1:39–56

Christmas

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
Christmas means: the mass of Christ

December 25-January 5
Color: White

Major Feast Days: Christmas Eve (Dec 24), Christmas Day (Dec 25), Circumcision and Name of Jesus (Jan. 1)

Important Saint Days: St. Stephen (Dec. 26), St. John (Dec. 27), The Holy Innocents (Dec. 28)

Note: Christmas celebrates the incarnation of the Son of God into our flesh.

March 11 – The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 7:10–14

Psalms 110:1–4

1 John 4:7–16

Matt. 1:18–25

Christmas Midnight

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

Christmas Dawn

Micah 5:2–5a

Psalms 80:1–7

Titus 3:4–7

Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20

Christmas Day

Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38

Psalms 2

Titus 3:4–7

John 1:1–14 (15–18)

March 12 - The Christmas Season, ending in Epiphany

1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 11:1–5 or 2 Sam. 7:1–16

Psalms 89:1–8

Gal. 4:1–7

Luke 2:(22–32) 33–40

New Year's Eve

Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17

Psalms 90:1–12

Rom. 8:31b–39

Luke 12:35–40

Circumcision and Name of Jesus (New Year's Day)

Numbers 6:22–27

Galatians 3:23–29

Luke 2:21

The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 24

Eph. 3:1–12 or Col. 1:23–27

Matt. 2:1–12

Epiphany

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,

Epiphany means: to make known/reveal
January 6- February 13, 2024
Color: White on January 6th, Green for the rest.

Major Feast Days: Baptism of Jesus (Jan. 7), Confession of Peter (Jan. 18)
Transfiguration of Jesus (Jan. 21). Purification of Mary (Feb. 2).

Important Saint Days: St. Timothy (Jan. 24). Conversion of St. Paul, (Jan. 25). St. Titus, (Jan. 26).

Note: Epiphany makes known who Jesus Christ is. Focus on his miracles and transfiguration to reveal his identity as God's Son and our Savior. In the One Year Lectionary, which we use at Christ Lutheran, the three weeks prior to Ash Wednesday are the Gesima weeks. Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima. These words mean the 70th day before Easter, the 60th day and the 50th day before Easter.

March 13 - The Baptism of Our Lord

Joshua 3:1–3, 7–8, 13–17 or Isaiah 42:1–7

Psalm 85

1 Cor. 1:26–31

Matt. 3:13–17

March 14 - 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Ex. 33:12–23 or Amos 9:11–15

Psalm 67 or Psalm 111

Rom. 12:6–16 or Eph. 5:22–33

John 2:1–11

March 15 – The Transfiguration

Ex. 34:29–35 or Ex. 3:1–14

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matt. 17:1–9

March 16 – Septuagesima (The week of the 70th day before Easter)

Ex. 17:1–7

Psalm 95:1–9

1 Cor. 9:24— 10:5

Matt. 20:1–16

Sunday, March 17 – Sexagesima (The week of the 60th day before Easter)

Isaiah 55:10–13

Psalm 84

2 Cor. 11:19–12:9 or Heb. 4:9–13

Luke 8:4–15

March 18 – Quinquagesima (The Week of the 50th day before Easter)

1 Sam. 16:1–13 or Isaiah 35:3–7

Psalm 89:18–29 or Psalm 146

1 Cor. 13:1–13

Luke 18:31–43

Lent

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

Lent comes from the word Lencten, meaning “Spring Time”

February 14th–March 23rd 2024

Color: Violet

Major Feast Days: The Annunciation of our Lord (March 25).

Important Saint Days: St. Valentine, (Feb. 14). St. Matthias, (Feb. 25). St. Patrick, (March 17). St. Joseph, (March 19).

Note: Lent is a 40 day period (Sundays not counted) to have sorrow over sin, to focus on the work of Jesus for us, leading to Holy Week. This penitential season is the lead up to the climax of the Church Year with Holy Week. The suppression of joy during this season is meant to make the Easter Season all that more sweet.

March 19 – Ash Wednesday and the 1st Sunday of Lent

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12–19 or Jonah 3:1–10

Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)

2 Peter 1:2–11

Matt. 6:(1–6) 16–21

1st Sunday of Lent (Invocabit)

Gen. 3:1–21 or 1 Sam. 17:40– 51

Psalm 32 or Psalm 118:1– 13

2 Cor. 6:1–10 or Heb. 4:14–16

Matt. 4:1–11

March 20 – 2nd Sunday of Lent (Reminiscere)

Gen. 32:22–32

Psalm 121

1 Thess. 4:1–7 or Rom. 5:1–5

Matt. 15:21– 28

March 21 – 3rd Sunday of Lent (Oculi)

Ex. 8:16–24 or Jer. 26:1–15

Psalm 136:1–16 or Psalm 4

Eph. 5:1–9

Luke 11:14–28

March 22 – 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)

Ex. 16:2–21 or Isaiah 49:8–13

Psalm 132:8– 18

Gal. 4:21–31 or Acts 2:41–47

John 6:1–15

March 23 – 5th Sunday of Lent (Judica)

Gen. 22:1–14

Psalm 43

Heb. 9:11–15

John 8:(42–45) 46–59

Holy Week

(Jesus) suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

March 24- March 31, 2024

Color: Scarlet for Palm Sunday, Purple for Maundy Thursday, Black for Good Friday.

Major Feast Days: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday

Note: The climax of the Church year. This intense week centers on the culmination of the work of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: These will be the readings in Church this week. Palm Sunday at 9am, Monday at 6:30pm, Tuesday at Noon, Wednesday at 9am, Thursday at 6:30pm, Friday at 1:15 and 6:30pm, Sunday Vigil at 6am, Easter Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:30am.

Sunday, March 24 -Palm Sunday

Zech. 9:9–12

Psalm 118:19–29 or Psalm 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Matt. 21:1–9 or John 12:12–19

March 25 – Holy Monday

Isaiah 50:5-10

Psalm 36

1 Peter 2:21-24

Matthew 26-27

March 26 – Holy Tuesday

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

1 Timothy 6:12-14

Mark 14-15

March 27 – Holy Wednesday

Isaiah 62:11-63:7

Psalm 70

Revelation 1:5b-7

Luke 22-23

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Ex. 12:1–14 or Ex. 24:3–11

Psalm 116:12– 19

1 Cor. 11:23–32

John 13:1–15 (34–35)

March 29 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13— 53:12

Psalm 22 or Psalm 31

2 Cor. 5:14–21

John 18:1— 19:42

March 30 – Easter Vigil (Our vigil is held Sunday morning at 6am)

The Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

The Flood (Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13)

The Testing of Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:10-15:1)

Salvation Offered Freely to All (Isaiah 55:1-11)

A New Heart and a New Spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

God's Faithfulness to Israel (Deuteronomy 31:19-30)

The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Job Confesses the Redeemer (Job 19:20-27)

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh (Jonah 3:1-10)

The Gathering of God's People (Zephaniah 3:12-20)

The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:1-30)

Sunday, March 31 – The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunrise

Isaiah 25:6–9 or Ex. 14:10—15:1

Psalm 16

1 Cor. 15:1–11 or 1 Cor. 15:12–25

John 20:1–18

Regular

Job 19:23–27

Psalm 118:15– 29

1 Cor. 5:6–8 or 1 Cor. 15:51–57

Mark 16:1–8