

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for October 2025

The purpose of the Chapel Devotion Project is to encourage individuals and families to make prayer and devotional time in God's Word a regular part of their daily lives. We believe many good things will come from your intentional study and reflection of God's Word:

- Your relationship with God and with others will grow and be strengthened.
- Study of the Scripture and hymns for the upcoming weekend will enhance your worship.
- You will come to the Lord daily in prayer, bringing your praise, thanks, and requests to Him.

How to Use These Devotions

Each week contains five pages of devotional material. How you choose to use the material is up to you. You could study one reading or one page a day. You might read several portions every other day. You may use the short order of worship provided below. Use the material in the way that best fits you and your family.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

DEVOTION and REFLECTION

PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
All: Amen.

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Devotions and supporting material written by Pastor Ted Laesch and Mary Laesch.

Walking Together in the Word

September 29–October 4, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 5.

Proper 22

The Gospel: Luke 17:1–10

Sin, Faith, Duty

17 Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. 2 It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. 3 So watch yourselves.

“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. 4 Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? 8 Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

Devotion on the Gospel

There are few things more difficult than when a loved one—a “brother” the Bible calls it—sins against us. We are hurt, confused, vengeful, sad. But God has a plan. And He has some things for us to do—and not do—when a loved one sins against us. There are three specific actions in these few verses here in Luke 17.

First of all: *don’t cause it*. There are few other places in Scripture where Jesus is as passionate as He is when He talks about those who might cause someone to sin. He has some strong words: Don’t do it!

Secondly, Jesus says, if someone sins, *rebuke him*. Speak the truth in love in order to restore your brother or sister gently.

And thirdly, if someone sins against you, Jesus says, *forgive him*. Speak forgiveness to him. Proclaim it! Declare it! Announce it! Forgive him in the name of Jesus.

When the disciples heard that, they said: “Lord, increase our faith!” What a great response! They knew this was impossible without the Lord’s help and a very strong faith. But faith comes from God. It is His gift. He’s the One who causes it to be nourished and grow and flourish. And faith is powerful! Even a tiny faith is extraordinarily powerful. Powerful enough, in fact, that we can forgive those who have wronged us. We can, through His power, not cause sin, but rebuke sin, and forgive sin.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What do these verses say about how we should live with other believers?

Do we ever feel that others—or even God—owes us for our good deeds? What do these verses say about that idea?

Many of us find it helpful to have steps to follow when we’re asked to do something difficult. Jesus gives us steps to follow! But we realize we can’t do it on our own. We need Jesus to work in us and through us. So tonight, pray with the disciples, “Lord, increase our faith!”

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Do you ever feel, as Habakkuk did, that God isn't listening to your cries for help?

You can trust that the Lord hears your prayers and will answer them. By faith, you can believe in God's promises to act in His time.

*Verse to Remember:
2 Timothy 1:7*

The Old Testament Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

[Habakkuk's Complaint]

2 How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence! but you do not save? 3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. 4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

I will stand at my watch

and station myself on the ramparts;

I will look to see what he will say to me,

and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

[The Lord's Answer]

2 Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. 4 "See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness."

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The Psalm: Psalm 62

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.

2 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

3 How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down—
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?

4 Surely they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.

With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.

5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.

6 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

7 My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

8 Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.

9 Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.

If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.

10 Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.

11 One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:

“Power belongs to you, God,
12 and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”;
and, “You reward everyone
according to what they have done.”

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

In this psalm, King David once again turns to God for help. What did he fear? How does He describe God, his helper?

What do you fear? Put your trust in God. Cry out to your Rock and Salvation. Your soul will find rest in Him.

MY SOUL FINDS REST IN GOD

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

Read Matthew 7:24-27 to see what Jesus said about building on shifting ground versus building on the solid rock of the Word.

The Hymn: I Know My Faith is Founded *LSB 587*

I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,
Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.
Our reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.

Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.

In faith, Lord, let me serve You;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure,
Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit
As all You said holds true.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy
The end of faith attain.

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I
KNOW
MY
FAITH
IS
FOUNDED
ON
JESUS

Faith + Life Connections

Even our closest family and friends sometimes sin against us. How should we react? Jesus tells us to gently tell them about their sin, then forgive them! Practice speaking the truth in love right now. "I forgive you" can be hard to say, but it's a beautiful way to show Jesus' love.

Luke 17:1-10

Timothy learned about the love of God from his mother and grandmother. Who has shared the faith with you? Write a note or draw a picture, thanking someone who has shared their faith with you. Give it to them!

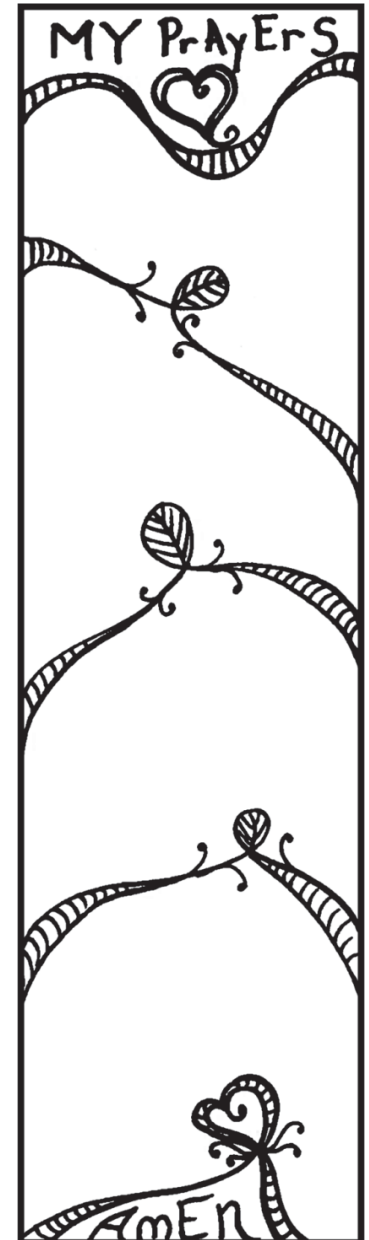
2 Timothy 1:1-14

Go on a walk together and look for a rock. Bring it home, wash it, and write Psalm 62 on it with a permanent marker. Read the psalm together. Why do you think the psalmist describes God as His mighty rock?

Psalm 62

Verse to Remember
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7



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Prayer for the Week

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

October 6–October 11, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 12.

Proper 23

The Gospel: Luke 17:11–19

Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Devotion on the Gospel

We are all very familiar with this story. We hear it every Thanksgiving Eve or Day when we come to worship. And it’s good to hear it again. It’s an example of praise, of gratitude, of thanksgiving as one leper came back to Jesus after being healed. He couldn’t hold back his praise. He prostrated himself at the feet of Jesus in gratitude. He threw himself down before Jesus in thanksgiving.

It gets me thinking: How often do I fall at the feet of Jesus and give Him thanks and praise? How about you? That’s where we need to be! Like the leper, we have a disease. It’s not a disease of the skin but of the heart. It’s a spiritual disease caused by sin. And that disease gives us a death sentence: eternal death, eternal torment, eternity apart from God.

And yet, Christ comes to us and touches us. He touches us with His love and healing and forgiveness. Our death sentence has been lifted. He has given us pardon by dying on the cross. We have all been touched deeply by the Christ.

When we look at His love for us, when we look at His death for us, when we look at that cross and know that our sins are forgiven, when we look at the resurrection and the promise of heaven -- is there any better place to be than at the feet of Jesus, worshiping and praising and thanking?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Jews and Samaritans despised one another, yet time and again, Jesus reached out to this rejected people group (see John 4). God’s love and salvation is for all people.

Make a list of all that you have to be thankful for. Post it in a place where you will see it often, and give thanks to God throughout the day!

HE THREW HIMSELF AT JESUS’ FEET
AND THANKED HIM

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Though Ruth is from Moab, she believes in the God of Israel. She has no marriage prospects in Judah, but putting faith and family first, clings to her mother-in-law Naomi and vows to go where she goes.

We can trust in God to help us, even when things seem hopeless.

The Old Testament Reading: Ruth 1:1–19a

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

3 Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE MY PEOPLE and YOUR GOD MY GOD

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

The Psalm: Psalm 111

Praise the Lord.

I will extol the Lord with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established for ever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

All who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death, and as He was raised from the dead, we too will live a new life. See Romans 6.

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 111:10*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The words of this hymn invite you to go to Jesus for forgiveness, healing, and peace.

Pick a verse to sing or to read out loud. Pray the words as you sing or read.

The Hymn: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

LSB 435

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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GOD IS
FAITHFUL;
GOD WILL
never
BREAK HIS
COVENANT
OF BLOOD

Faith + Life Connections

Jesus healed the ten lepers, and they became healthy—they could go back to their homes and jobs. But only one returned to give thanks. We sometimes forget to give thanks too. Take turns telling what God has done for you. Then thank Him in prayer.

Luke 17:11-19

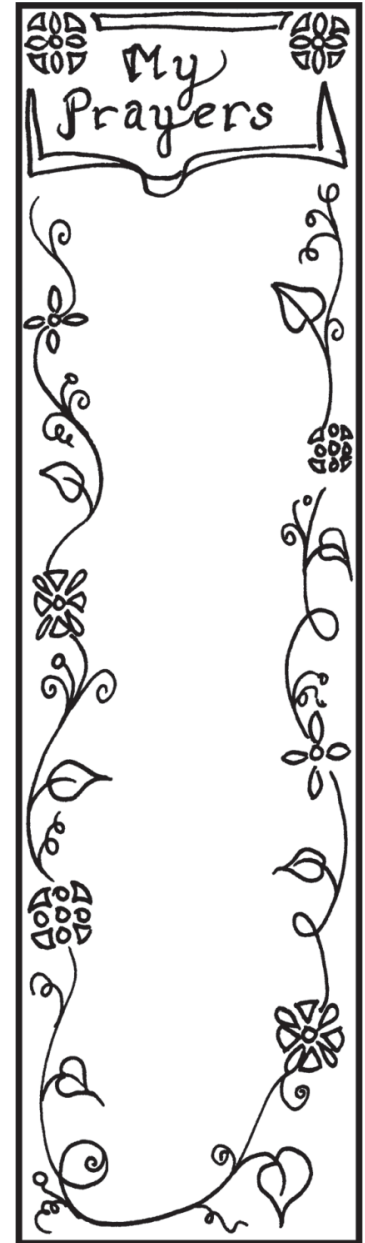
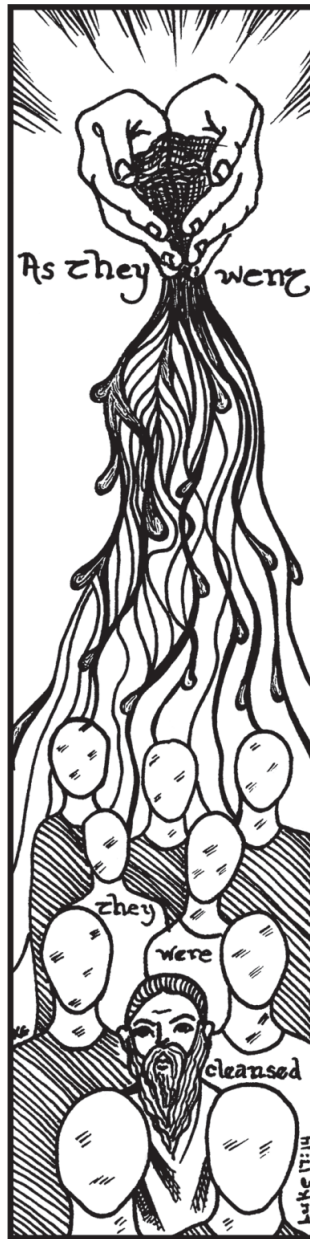
Read the entire account of Ruth from the Bible (it's only four chapters) or from a Bible story book. Do you know who Ruth's great-great-great (and more greats) grandson was? Take a look at Matthew 1 to find out.

Ruth 1:1-19a

Look online for pictures of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. Paul compares each of these to the life of a Christian. Read the verses in 2 Timothy again and talk about how each of these describes how we live as Christians.

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Verse to Remember
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
Psalms 111:10



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

October 13–October 18, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 19.

Proper 24

The Gospel: Luke 18:1–8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And 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 what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I 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?”

Devotion on the Gospel

Right off the bat, Luke tells us what Jesus’ parable is all about: “Always pray and do not lose heart.” That persistent widow pestered the corrupt judge until he finally gave in. But how much more will your heavenly Father, who is righteous and good, listen and do for you because you are His beloved child. So keep praying! Don’t lose heart.

Easier said than done. We might hear those words about praying and feel convicted because we don’t “always pray” and we sometimes “lose heart.” Sometimes we don’t pray like we should. Or we don’t pray as often as we should, for what or whom we should. We sometimes forget to give thanks. We sometimes forget to pray for the spiritual as well as the physical needs. Perhaps when we do pray, it is thoughtless. Or perhaps we pray really only on Sundays when we happen to be in church. So it’s true, none of us prays as we ought.

And sometimes we do lose heart. We get discouraged. We feel like our prayers fall on deaf ears. Why doesn’t God answer? Is all this praying worth it? Nothing seems to change, things only get worse. We’re not seeing the results we want and we lose heart.

But even though this text tells us what to do and how to do it, there is a beautiful invitation here to pray. To pray to the One who will hear us. To pray to the One who delights in our prayers, who can and will do something about them. He is our loving Father, our good and righteous judge, the generous giver of all good things. He promises to hear, to listen, and to answer according to His gracious will.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Jesus urges the people, and us, to always pray and never give up. God wants to hear and promises to act, according to His will.

Jesus often talked about prayer. See also Matthew 6:5–15 and Matthew 7:7–12.

*Can we find a Friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?*

*Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

After 14 years in self-imposed exile, Jacob is going home. (See the backstory in Genesis 27.) Will his twin brother Esau forgive him for tricking their father to get the birthright?

Jacob sends his wives and family ahead and stays back to pray. God comes to him at night in human form and wrestles with him, but Jacob doesn't give up. Finally at daybreak, God blesses him.

When you are having troubles, don't give up! Go to God in prayer. He hears, and He will bless.

See Romans 5:3-5.

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 32:22-30

Jacob Wrestles With God

22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

YOUR NAME WILL NO
LONGER BE JACOB,
BUT ISRAEL

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

The Psalm: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

MY HELP COMES
FROM THE LORD

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How do we know what is true and what is false concerning God and His will for us? Go to His Word! Read it, study it, talk about it with fellow Christians. Only in Scripture do we discover the truth about Jesus, our Savior, and God's will for us as His people.

*Verses to Remember:
Psalm 121:1-2*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This is a favorite hymn of many people. Read through and underline the words that bring special comfort and joy to you. Then thank God for His gracious invitation to bring everything to Him in prayer.

The Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee:
Thou wilt find a solace there.

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WHAT a
FRIEND we
Have in
JESUS

Faith + Life Connections

God wants us to come to Him in prayer. Consider making a family Prayer Journal. Buy a journal or decorate a notebook. Keep it in a place where everyone can write down thanksgivings, and requests, and other prayers. Find a time, maybe after dinner or before bed, to come together and pray.

Luke 18:1-8

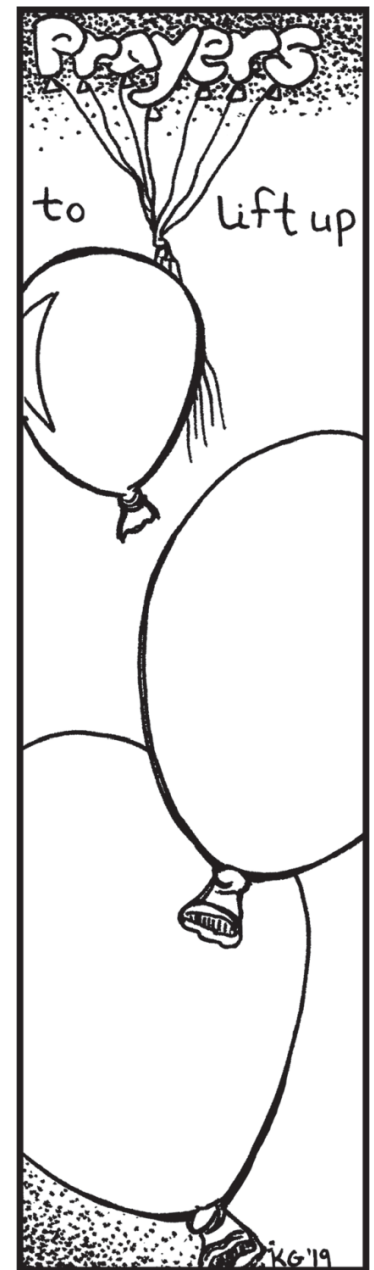
This week, read the accounts of Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Rachel, Joseph, Moses, and the Exodus from a Bible story book. Though they faced many hardships, God was faithful to them, working through them to fulfill His great plan of salvation.

Genesis 32:22-30

Psalms 121 is a beautiful reminder of God's love, faithfulness, and protection for us. Memorize verses 1-2, or even the whole psalm! When you are anxious, these words will comfort you.

Psalms 121

Verse to Remember
I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalms 121:1-2



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

October 20 –October 25, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, October 26.

Reformation Day

The Gospel: John 8:31–36

The Truth Will Set You Free

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Devotion on the Gospel

“Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last!” So ends the famous “I Have a Dream” speech of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. What a powerful case King made for the freedom of African-Americans from discrimination, prejudice, and institutional racism.

This Sunday the church celebrates Reformation Day, and we have on our minds another Martin Luther. He, too, was concerned about freedom, but of a different kind. For Martin Luther, the reformer, the freedom won for us by Christ on the cross and given to us through God’s Word was at stake. So this Luther, too, had a famous speech, given in front of the Roman Emperor who told him to recant. His reply? “Here I stand. I can do no other.”

Jesus said: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” What is that truth? The same truth Martin Luther found. It is the theme of the Reformation. All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory. Not one is perfect. All deserve nothing but God’s wrath.

But God sent Jesus Christ into the world to forgive sins—your sins and mine. He sent Jesus Christ to the cross to declare us free. Free from the power of sin. Free to be His people. Free to be His servants, partners with Him in the work of His Kingdom. If you continue in my Word, Jesus says, then you are My disciples. And that truth of the Gospel will make you free!

Freedom. It’s the theme of the Reformation. It’s the theme of the Gospel. It’s *our* theme. We are free. In Christ Jesus we are free indeed!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

We may think we are free to do what we want, but the truth is that we are enslaved by sin. There is only One who can set us free—Jesus. He is the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6).

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” Romans 3:23-24.

Look up and read Romans 3:9-31.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What is the eternal gospel? Look up and read John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 4:10.

*Verse to Remember:
Romans 8:31*

God gives us some incredible words of comfort in these verses. Underline the verses that are especially encouraging to you. What makes them so meaningful?

The Second Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

The Three Angels

6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

The Epistle: Romans 8:31-36

More Than Conquerors

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

IF GOD IS FOR US,
WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

The Psalm: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
7 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8 Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,
an ever-present help in
TROUBLE.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Psalm 46 is a psalm of comfort and encouragement—God is for us; He is our strength.

Try this method of reading, meditating, and praying over God's Word: read this psalm slowly, meditating on the words. Read it a second time, then a third time. Write any thoughts in the margins. Then pray, guided by the Scripture you have read.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

We often think of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress" as the battle hymn of the Reformation, but Martin Luther likely wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 46, as a hymn of comfort.

*Look at the words and compare them to the words of Psalm 46. How is God **your** refuge and strength, your mighty fortress?*

The Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *LSB 656*

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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A
MIGHTY
FORTRESS
IS
OUR
GOD

Faith + Life Connections

We might think we are free to do what we want. But our sinful nature has us enslaved and wants to make us do what is wrong. Share examples. Who can free us from slavery to sin? Only Jesus. His death and resurrection frees us from sin, death, and the devil! Say a prayer of thanks to Him!

John 8:31-36

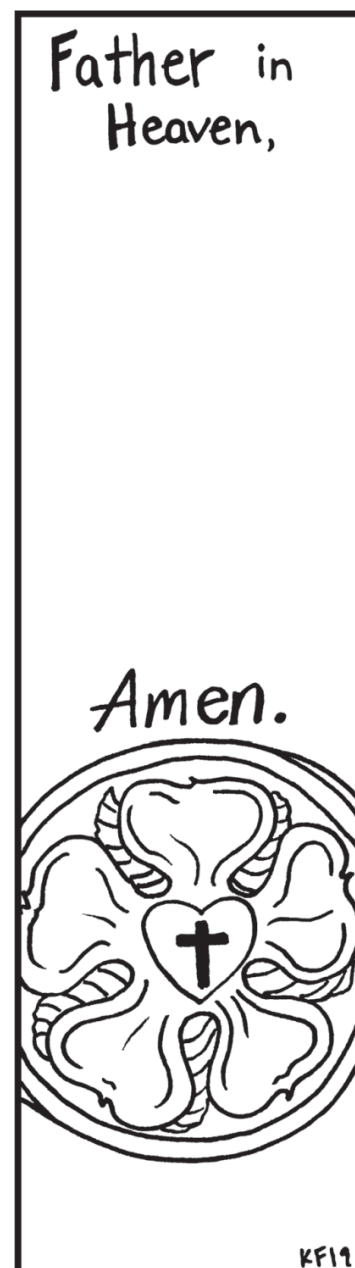
The Gospel is the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Read John 3:16, the "Gospel in a nutshell." Write or print out this verse on several slips of paper. Leave them in places for others to find—in the library, at the coffee shop, on the playground.

Revelation 14:6-7

Have you ever been separated from someone you love? It can be a sad and scary feeling. You *never* have to worry about being separated from Jesus. He will always love and care for you.

Romans 8:31-36

Verse to Remember
If God is for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

