

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for September 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 1–September 6, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, September 7.

Proper 18

The Gospel: Luke 14:25–35

The Cost of Being a Disciple

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ 31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?

35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Devotion on the Gospel

Wait a minute! Did Jesus just say that?! “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be My disciple.” Strong words from the Savior, words that remind us that nothing is to come between us and Jesus. Nothing! He who loves father, mother, or family more than Jesus cannot be His disciple.

Jesus spoke these strong words on His way to Jerusalem. He knew what lay before Him. Suffering, pain, mocking, cruelty, beating, false accusations, fixed trials, fabricated evidence—and finally a cross, and death, and a grave. He was going to Jerusalem to pay the full price of our sin—even our sin of putting other things before Him.

And on the third day He rose from the dead and He lives forevermore to love us into giving Him what we were originally created for. We were not created to put others before God, to love things, people, even family more than Jesus. In love, we were created to love our God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. It’s the first and greatest commandment (*Matthew 22:38*). And He gives us the power and the grace to do it.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Jesus is asking the people to consider the cost of following Him. There will be challenges. There will be hardships. Being a Christ-follower means putting Him before everything else. Of course, Christ did just that—He gave up all things, even His life—for us. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us follow Him.

Is there something that tends to come between you and Jesus? Ask God for forgiveness, and for help to put Him first.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This is part of Moses' farewell speech to the people of Israel before he died and they crossed into the Promised Land. What blessings would the people receive if they would put God first?

Paul is asking Philemon to free the runaway slave Onesimus, whom Paul has led to faith in Christ.

Imagine you are Philemon. What are your thoughts as you read Paul's letter?

The Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Epistle: Philemon 1-21

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— 2 also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. 7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. 15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 20 I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Psalm: Psalm 1

Blessed is the one

- who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
4 Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

BLESSED IS THE ONE . . .
WHOSE DELIGHT IS IN THE
LAW OF THE LORD

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to
Remember:
Psalm 1:1-2

*Jesus also spoke of
streams of water, or
"living water." See
John 4:10. What is
this water?*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

We don't often speak of Jesus as a warrior, but that is how He is described in Revelation 19:11-16. Over whom did Christ triumph?

Who are the others described in this hymn?

The Hymn: The Son of God Goes Forth to War LSB 661

The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar;
Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below--
He follows in His train.

The martyr first, whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his Master in the sky
And called on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue
In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for them that did the wrong--
Who follows in his train?

A glorious band, the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints--their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel,
The lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks their death to feel--
Who follows in their train?

A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice,
In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!

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THE SON
OF GOD
goes
FORTH
TO
war

Faith + Life Connections

Think about something you absolutely, positively, could not do without. That gift came from God! God created us to be completely dependent on Him for all things, and to love Him above all things. Only He can give us what we really need, most importantly, forgiveness and new life. *Luke 14:25-35*

Moses told God's people to love God, walk in obedience, and keep His commands. Take a look at the Ten Commandments in Luther's Small Catechism or in *Exodus 20*. Choose a commandment. How does striving to keep that commandment bless you and others?

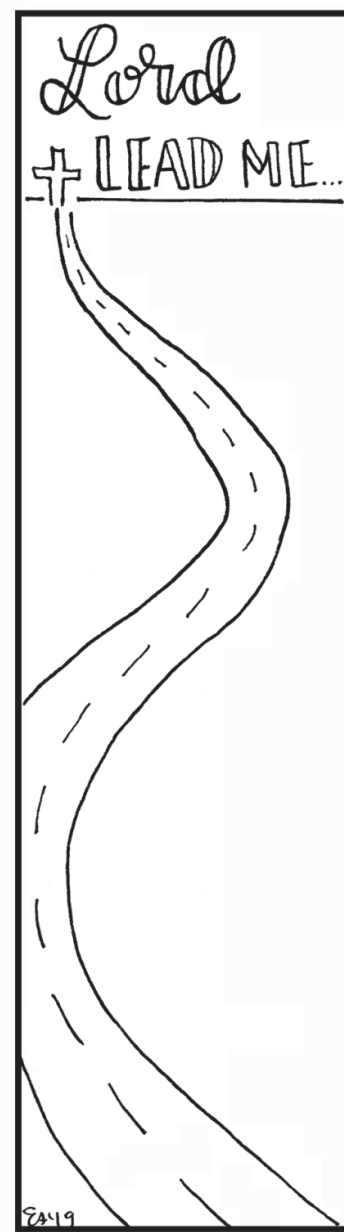
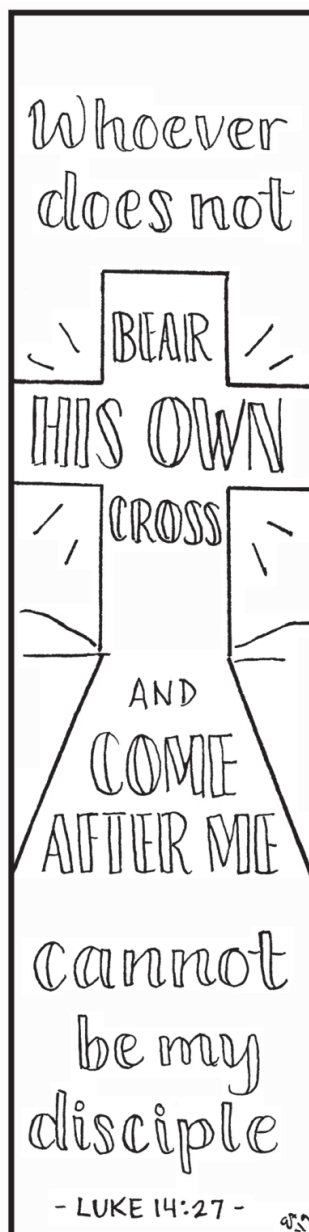
Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Read Philemon 1-21 again. That's pretty much the whole book! Look at how Paul bases his argument for freeing Onesimus on grace, love, and friendship. How does Jesus' grace, love, and friendship to you influence the way you treat others?

Philemon 1-21

Verse to Remember:
Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the Lord.

Psalms 1:1-2



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Prayer for the Week

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

September 8–September 13, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, September 14.

Proper 19

The Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 I 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.

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

Devotion on the Gospel

The shepherd has 99 sheep safe at home, but there is one that got lost. So he goes out looking for that lost sheep. And he finds it! And when he does, he picks it up and tenderly puts it on his shoulders and comes home, celebrating.

Here’s a shepherd who’s interested in every single one of his sheep. Every one is important. Every one of them is precious. Every one of them is priceless to him. And he’ll go to all lengths to find that sheep who is lost.

We need a Shepherd like that. A lot of people are lost. Many don’t even know it. It’s because of sin that we get lost, get cut off from God, get cut off from our relationship with Him. Maybe some of us are lost in that way. We get lost. We get lost in worry and anxiety, in hate and revenge, in pride and arrogance, and in myriad other ways. We get lost because of our sin.

You know, Jesus always had a special concern for the lost. He was passionate about being their Shepherd and seeking out the lost ones. And to show them the right way, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” In other words: Believe in me. Trust in me. I will lead you. I will guide you. I will bring you home. He seeks us. He finds us. And then He promises to take us home. And oh the rejoicing there will be when He takes us home!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

God, our Creator and Father, rejoices over each person who comes to faith in Him. What does this say about our God?

Do you know someone who is lost? Pray that they would come to faith. Give thanks that we have a God who searches out the lost and rejoices when they are found!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Ezekiel was a prophet during the time of the exile of God's people, about 400 years after David reigned as king over Israel.

Who, then, is Ezekiel speaking of when he prophesies about "one shepherd, my servant David"? See John 10.

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

11 "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

14 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord.

16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

17 "As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. 18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? 19 Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

20 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, 22 I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. 23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. 24 I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

I MYSELF WILL TEND MY
SHEEP...
DECLARES THE LORD.

The Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Psalm: Psalm 119:169-176

May my cry come before you, Lord;
give me understanding according to your word.

170 May my supplication come before you;
deliver me according to your promise.

171 May my lips overflow with praise,
for you teach me your decrees.

172 May my tongue sing of your word,
for all your commands are righteous.

173 May your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, Lord,
and your law gives me delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise you,
and may your laws sustain me.

176 I have strayed like a lost sheep.
Seek your servant,
for I have not forgotten your commands.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
1 Timothy 1:15

*Have you ever
thought or heard
someone say, "I'm
not good enough for
God to love me."*

*What comfort and
hope does this
passage give?*

*When you find
yourself straying
from God, cry out
to Him with the
words of this psalm.*

*He promises to seek
and deliver you,
gathering you into
His loving embrace.*

CHRIST JESUS
CAME INTO THE WORLD
TO SAVE SINNERS

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This hymn is full of comfort for you and me—sinners loved by God.

Choose one verse and copy it on a notecard to carry with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' passionate, persistent love for you.

The Hymn: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 608

Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Faith + Life Connections

Play a game of hide-and-seek, or hide coins around the room. After everyone and everything is found, reread Luke 15:1-15 and talk about our loving God who seeks out sinners and rejoices when they repent and believe in Him.

Luke 15:1-10

Visit a farm or zoo, or look up a video of sheep online. Sheep need a shepherd, someone to care for them, lead them to food and water, and keep them safe. How does Jesus our Shepherd care and provide for us?

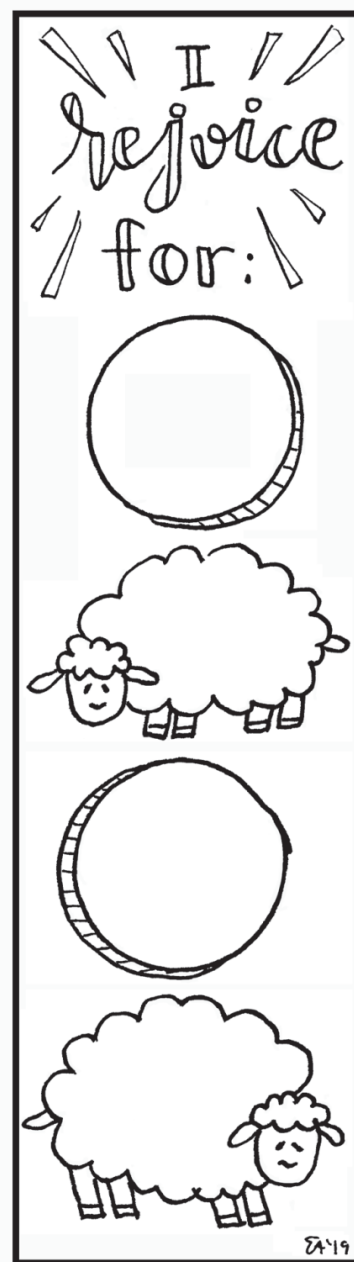
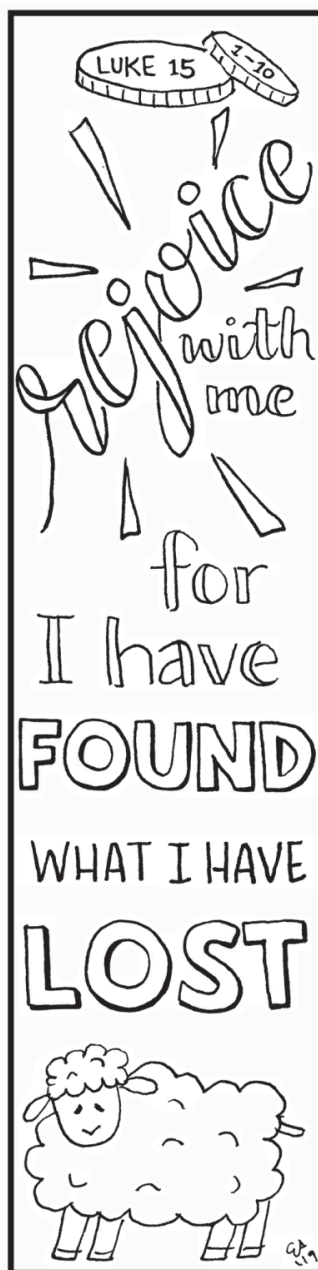
Ezekiel 34:11-24

Does your family love you only when you are good? No, they love you all the time. Does God love you only when you're good? No, God loves you even when you do bad things. God loves all people, even though we are all sinners—that's why He sent Jesus! Jesus forgives our sins and gives us new life in Him.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Verse to Remember:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15



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Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

September 15–September 20, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, September 21.

Proper 20

The Gospel: Luke 16:1–15

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ 3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ 5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ 7 “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ 8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. 10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? 13 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” 14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

Devotion on the Gospel

What a strange parable! A manager was mismanaging his boss’s money and the boss found out about it. He was fired on the spot. But before he was shown the door, the manager was given some time to give an accounting of the master’s possessions. With that time, the manager makes a few friends using the boss’s money. He cuts what the debtors owe, and in the process, makes some friends who now owe him something! He was sneaky. He was self-serving. He was manipulative. And yet he was commended by the master. Strange parable indeed!

Is Jesus commending dishonesty? Of course not. But He is giving some clues about a merciful God. The master gave the manager time to set himself up for the future. The master asks for an account, but never demands repayment for what was taken from him.

Who would act like such a master? Who would show such mercy and forgiveness? Who would show such patience to the one who had stolen from him? Our God and Father, that’s who—on account of his Son, Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ, God does things even more outrageous and surprising. The Father sends His Son, not to demand an accounting from us, not to collect on our debt of sin which we surely owe, and not to threaten us to shape up or else. No, He mercifully sends His own Son to live, to die, and to rise. He mercifully sends His Son to forgive us. He mercifully sends His own Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How can money become an enslaving master that drives you away from God?

How can money be used for good?

Take some time today to thank God for His outrageous, surprising, extravagant grace!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*God has been
gracious and
merciful to us. How
then should we
treat others?*

*Verse to Remember:
1 Timothy 2:5-6*

The Old Testament Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, 5 saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?”— skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, 6 buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. 7 The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.”

The Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Instructions on Worship

2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. 7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

8 Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. 9 I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

THERE IS ONE GOD AND ONE
MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND
MANKIND,
THE MAN CHRIST JESUS

The Psalm: Psalm 113

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.

2 Let the name of the Lord be praised,
both now and forevermore.

3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

6 who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

7 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

8 he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

9 He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord.

FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN
TO THE PLACE WHERE IT SETS,
THE NAME OF THE LORD IS TO BE
PRAISED.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*How will you praise
the name of the
Lord today?*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

There are many things in this world that offer pleasure and contentment, but in the end these will all pass away.

As you read the words of this hymn, let them be a prayer of thanks to God for giving us lasting treasure—the greatest treasure—Jesus.

The Hymn: What Is the World to Me *LSB 730*

What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my Treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul's delight shalt be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

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WHAT
IS
THE
WORLD
TO
ME!



Faith + Life Connections

How do you think and talk about money in your home? As a gift from God? As a tool to be used to provide for your family and help others? Or as something to be fretted over and sought after? Together, thank God for what He has given you and ask for help to serve Him only.

Luke 16:1-15

Make a list of leaders to pray for this week: national and local leaders, principals and teachers, pastors and church workers, parents and caregivers. Ask God to lead them to make godly decisions and honor Him.

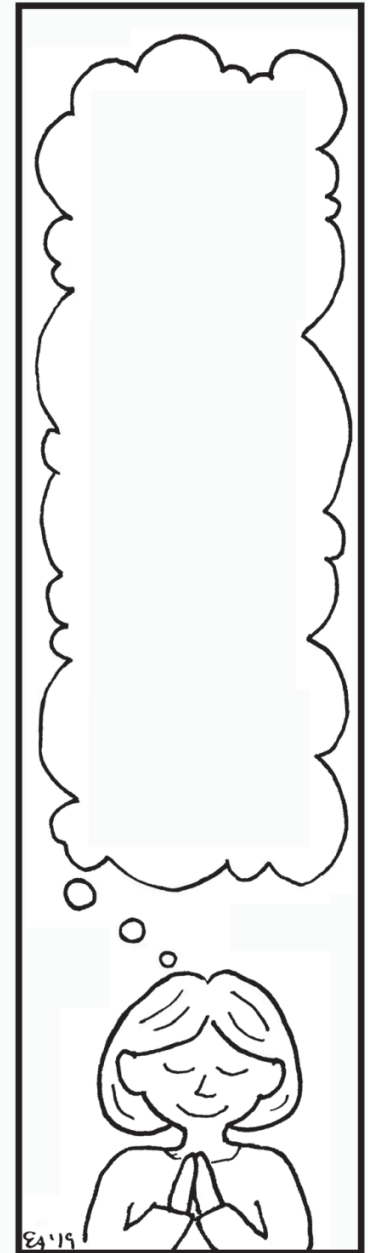
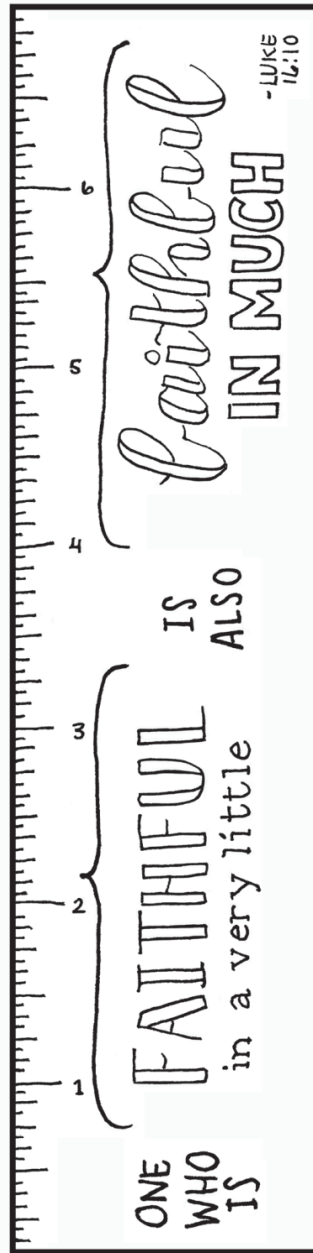
1 Timothy 2:1-15

Psalms 113 is full of great picture-language! Read it again aloud and draw or act out the phrases and actions of God. How does this help you better understand our glorious, compassionate, loving, all-powerful God?

Psalms 113

Verse to Remember:
For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

1 Timothy 2:5-6



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Walking Together in the Word

September 22–September 27, 2025

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, September 28.

Proper 21

The Gospel: Luke 16:19–31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ 25 “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’ 27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ 29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ 30 “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ 31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Devotion on the Gospel

Once upon a time, we are told, there lived a rich man—dressed in the best and living high on the hog. And at his gate, poor Lazarus, begging for crumbs and getting none, licked by the dogs. Lazarus dies in poverty. The rich man dies too. But justice is served in the end as the rich man goes to eternal torment in hell and Lazarus goes to paradise.

This parable isn’t about rich vs. poor, the haves vs. the have nots. It’s about something deeper. As we hear this story we should ask ourselves some questions: Are we hearing the Word that God gives? Are we listening to the Gospel? Are we paying attention to that beautiful Word that says: God loves you! He forgives you! He wants you at His heavenly feast!

The rich man never experienced God’s love. He was so busy paying attention to his earthly wealth that he missed the real wealth of God’s love. Lazarus, as poor as he was, had faith in the eternal promises of God and gained the eternal life promised to him.

God comes to us with the Word. He comes to us with the Gospel. He fills our hearts with Himself and His love and His forgiveness. And Jesus bridges the chasm between heaven and hell for all believers in Him through His Word. He, Jesus, suffers and dies to free us from suffering and death. He becomes poor to make us rich—not in earthly riches—but with eternal blessings.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How do these words of Jesus challenge the prosperity sermons of some who claim that God gives earthly wealth to those He favors here on earth?

What is the real wealth that God gives to believers?

Say a prayer of thanks to God for making you rich with His eternal blessings.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Amos warns the complacent, rich leaders of Israel that God's judgment on them is coming because they have turned away from Him. They put themselves first, and they will go into exile first.

In verses 3-7, Paul is talking about the qualifications needed to be a pastor. He talks about qualifications for deacons and deaconesses in verses 8-13.

Talk about why each of the qualifications given are important.

The Old Testament Reading: Amos 6:1-7

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! 2 Go to Kalneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than our two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours? 3 You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror. 4 You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. 5 You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. 6 You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. 7 Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

The Epistle: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Qualifications for Overseers and Deacons

3 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

8 In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

11 In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

KEEP HOLD OF THE DEEP TRUTHS OF THE FAITH

The Psalm: Psalm 146

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

- 2 I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
- 3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
- 4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.
- 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.
- 6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.
- 7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
- 8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.
- 9 The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
- 10 The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE
HELP IS
THE GOD OF JACOB, WHOSE
HOPE IS IN THE LORD THEIR
GOD.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 146:5*

*What are some of
the reasons the
psalmist gives for
putting trust in the
Lord God?*

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

As you read the words of this hymn, do they sound familiar? Look back at Psalm 146 and make connections.

The Hymn: Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him *LSB 797*

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earth-born they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last
portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most
High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.
He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

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Faith + Life Connections

Where do we go to hear about the great love God has for us? "Moses and the Prophets" (the Old Testament) and the New Testament Scriptures. Find and read favorite verses.

Luke 16:19-31

God calls some people to serve Him and His people as pastors or church workers. Is He calling you to this type of service? He may be! Pray for God's guidance as you read His Word, talk with Him in prayer, and talk about it with trusted friends and mentors. Of course, all Christians are called to serve others with the gifts God has given them.

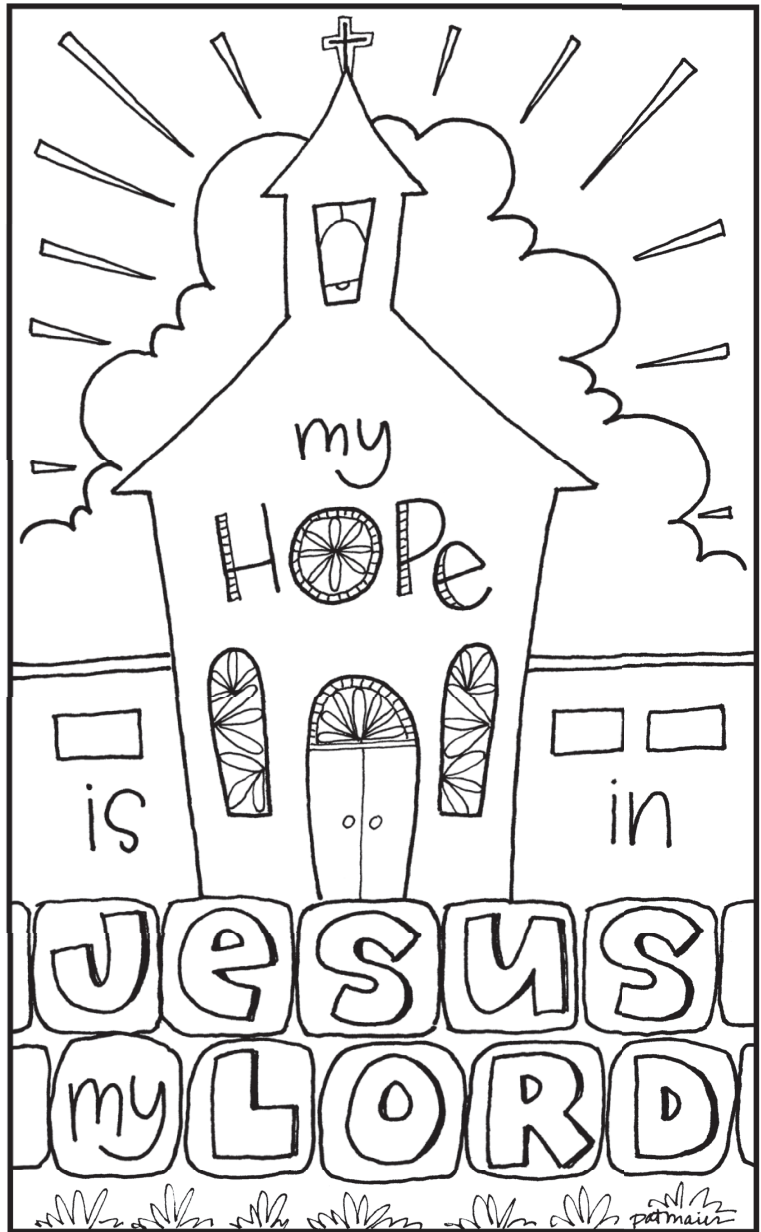
1 Timothy 3:1-13

The words of many hymns and Christian songs are taken from the words of Scripture. Compare LSB 797 and Psalm 146. Then look up other hymns or songs to see how they proclaim God's Word. Singing these songs is one way to keep the Word of God in our minds and hearts!

Psalm 146

Verse to Remember
Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Psalm 146:5



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Prayer for the Week

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

