



# Ascension Lutheran Church

3801 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35810

March 2025

# REFLECTIONS

## THE START OF *Lent*

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5 at 6:30 PM



LENT MID-WEEK SERVICES  
WEDNESDAYS FROM  
MARCH 12 THROUGH APRIL 9

6:30 PM

Meals at 5:30 PM

## SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 1, 2025

2ND ANNUAL MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION  
IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE LEE

CATERED NEW ORLEANS STYLE FOOD  
SINGING QUARTET, DANCING

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW LATER

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN ADVANCE  
FUNDRAISER SUPPORTING THE  
SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING TRIP



## Services Up until Easter

3/5	Ash Wednesday (Noon & 6:30 PM)
3/12, 19, 26	Midweek Lenten Services
4/2, 9	Midweek Lenten Services
4/17	Maundy Thursday (7:00 PM)
4/18	Good Friday (7:00 PM)
4/19	Easter Vigil (7:00 PM)
4/20	Easter Sunrise (6:00 AM)
	Easter Sunday (8:00 & 10:45 AM)



March 9, 2025

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# From the Pastor

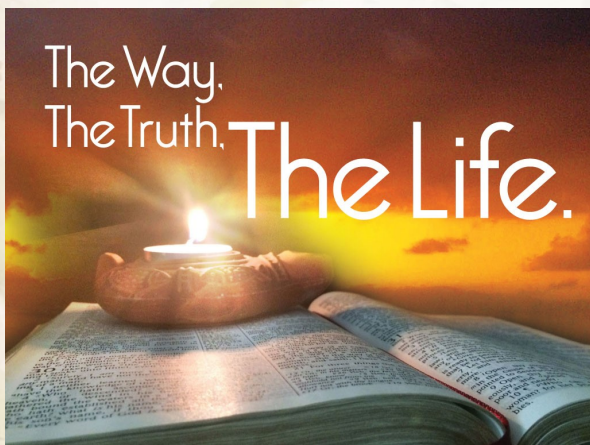
Rev. Derek Waffel

## VIA DOLOROSA

There is a traditional path that winds its way through the Old City of Jerusalem, the path that claims to retrace the footsteps of Jesus from his trial in front of Pontius Pilate to the hill of Calvary and the place of his crucifixion. In the tradition that has developed, this is called the Via Dolorosa, the “way of sorrows” and is marked by a series of “stations of the cross” that commemorate events throughout this journey.

he later defends his faith in Christ in front of the Roman governor Felix in Acts 24 Christianity is again called “the Way.” Jesus himself told us that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The word we translate as “way” also means a path, a road, or a journey – our faith is a daily walk in the footsteps of Christ.

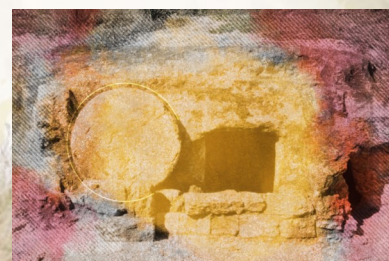
The Via Dolorosa reminds us that the Way, the faith we follow, is defined by the cross, by the implement of sacrifice on which Jesus died. The Way of Christian faith is the Way of the Cross, and Jesus says that anyone who wants to be his follower must give up their own way and instead take up their own cross and follow him.



“The Way” is a powerful phrase in Christian thinking. The earliest believers used that as their name for our faith: in Acts 9:2, the not-yet-converted Saul sets out to Damascus to persecute “any belonging to the Way,” and when

The season of Lent reminds us of this essential character of Christian faith more than any other season, the fact that our path through this world is a way defined by bearing the cross of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, many of us may literally bear a cross for a short time, a cross of ash on our foreheads to remind ourselves that we are made from the dust of the earth, and to the dust of the earth we will (unless Jesus returns first) surely return.

But the season of Lent also reminds us of what lies on the other side of the cross – an empty tomb. We will return to dust, but from that dust Christ will raise us again to everlasting life. A return to dust is the inevitable end of human life, but because Jesus walked that Via Dolorosa, our own way of sorrows has a definitive end. The Way of Christian faith is defined by bearing the cross of Christ, but it is the Way of Life, not a way of death. So as we follow the Way of the Cross and trace the footsteps of our Lord throughout the Lenten season, we do so always mindful of the hope of the empty tomb. Dust you are, to dust you shall return, yet from dust you will be raised again – for all who are buried with Christ in baptism will be raised with him also.





# Stewardship

Bobbie Scroggins

## HEAR WHAT I SAY; DO WHAT I DO

In order to be effective and powerful, faith must be nurtured. We must have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and love Him with such sincerity that His presence becomes a living reality in our lives.

Set aside precious moments to be with Him. When we possess a living faith that manifests itself in love, we have the basic qualities of a practical, inspired and effective religion that is acceptable to God. Then it is a source of blessing, not only for us, but also for our fellow man.

## 2 PETER 1:2-11

*“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this*

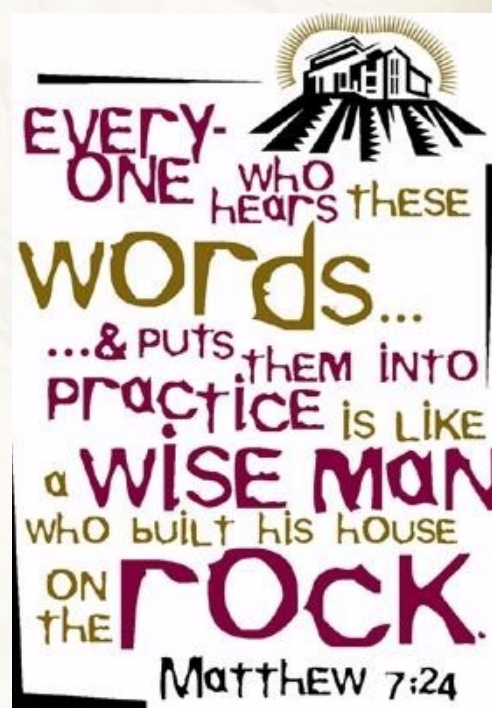
*very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

## MATTHEW 7:24

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

## PHILIPPIANS 4:9

*“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*



It is not enough to hear or read the Word of God or even to know it well. We must also put what God is teaching us into practice. How easy it is to listen to a sermon and forget what the preacher said. How easy it is to read the Bible and not think about how to live differently. How easy it is to debate what a passage means and not live out that meaning. Exposure to God's Word is not enough. It must lead to obedience.





## Stewardship (Continued)

### PRACTICE

We've heard the phrase, "Practice makes perfect." That's a lot of pressure for students of all ages, whether we're talking about piano lessons or cursive handwriting. It might be less intimidating if we said, "Practice makes better."

the crowds to follow the Pharisees' teaching because they taught God's truth. The Pharisees' traditions and their interpretations and applications of God's laws, however, had become as important to them as God's laws themselves. The laws added were not all bad – some were beneficial. The problems arose when the religious teachers (1) held that human-made rules had the same authority as God's laws; (2) told the people to obey these rules but not to do so themselves; (3) used the rules to unnecessarily burden the people; or (4) obeyed the rules not to honor God, but to make themselves look good. Jesus condemned the Pharisees not for teaching truth, but for being hypocrites.

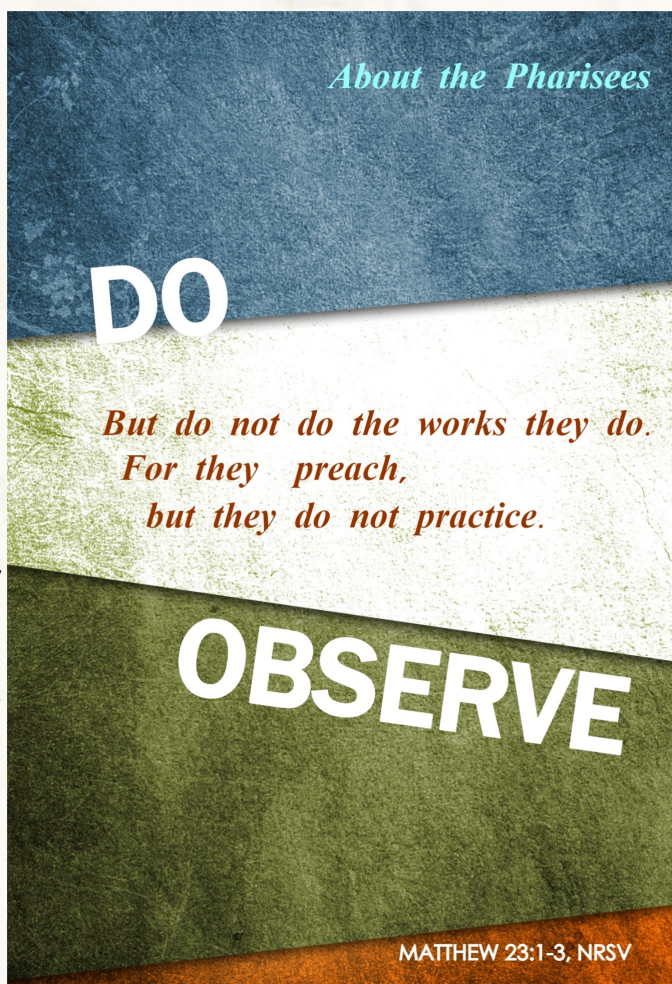
### EZEKIEL 33:31

*"And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain."*

### MATTHEW 23:1-3

*"Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.'"*

Jesus told the disciples and



### 1 TIMOTHY 5:4

*"But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God."*

That might be how Peter wants his readers to understand their practice of the Christian faith. They're not perfect because they strive more and more each to do be like Jesus, pinning their hopes for salvation on how well they've modeled their lives after Him. Rather, confessing faith in Christ alone, they are free from sin and free to make every effort with the help of the Holy Spirit to

practice virtues that will draw them closer to Jesus Christ.



# Stewardship (Continued)

Bobbie Scroggins

## PSALM 90

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.*

*Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

*You return man to dust  
and say, "Return, O children of man!"  
For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.*

*You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.*

*For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
by your wrath we are dismayed.*

*You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.  
For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.*

*The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

*Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?*

*So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

*Return, O Lord! How long?*

*Have pity on your servants!*

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

*Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and for as many years as we have seen evil.*

*Let your work be shown to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.*

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
yes, establish the work of our hands!"*

Moses reminds us that a thousand years is like a day to the Lord. God is not limited by time. We may get discouraged when years pass, the world seems worse and our bodies slow down or wear out. We may wonder if God still controls the future. But don't assume that God has our limitations. God is completely unrestricted by time. Because He is eternal, we can depend on Him and His plans.

God knows all of our sins as if they were spread out before Him, even the secret ones. Our entire lives read like an open book to Him. Trying to hide our sins from Him would be futile, so we are free to talk openly and honestly with Him about them. But while God knows all that terrible information about us, He still loves us and wants to forgive us. God's knowledge about us should not make us afraid of Him – it should encourage us to draw even closer to Him.

When it comes to our faith, we might even go so far as to turn the whole phrase around to say, "Perfect makes practice." Our perfect Lord and Savior, Jesus, has done everything for us. His death on the cross ensures forgiveness. His rising from the grave promises eternity. So what else is there left to do? Without the pressure of required perfections, the daily practice of our faith can be joyful.

It is not always easy to choose which road to follow, but accepting Christ as Lord of our lives puts divine powers into action. Choosing our goal and objectives with Christ will put us on the right road and will bring joy, confidence and enthusiasm into our lives.

If we walk through life in the light of the Lord, the whole journey becomes a joyous experience.



## Missional Outreach

Members of the Outreach Team go weekly to two different locations to sing, pray and preach. This month:

March 5 & 19 - HHR at 10:15 AM

March 13 & 27 - Regency, 10:45 AM

### Welcome

Song 1

Song 2

### OT Reading

Song 3

Song 4

### NT Reading

Song 5

Song 6

### Gospel

Song 7

### Message

Song 8

Song 9

Time for one-on-one conversation with the residents can happen!

This group goes every Sunday for worship at Regency at 9:45 AM



## March BIRTHDAYS

Phil Bridges	03/01	Kelly Aschenbrenner	03/17
Ben Hunze	03/01	Ken Leppert	03/17
James Hartwig	03/02	Sheila Fick	03/19
Ken Aschenbrenner	03/03	Anne Sims	03/20
Cody Moen	03/06	Mark Skrabanek	03/21
Gwen Beckles	03/08	Aiden Burhans	03/21
Judy Burhans	03/08	Janice Bradshaw	03/25
Chris Ballentine	03/08	Burneal Fick	03/25
Abby Hunze	03/10	Daniel Pate	03/30
Isaac Lee	03/13		
Isaiah Gehring	03/15		



## March ANNIVERSARIES

Amanda & Cody Moen      03/04      2 years





# Sincere Repentance

Rick Hilst

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment, But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. (Lutheran confession)

for God's mercy and, for the sake of Jesus' innocent sufferings and death, that God would forgive our sins.

So, what does it mean when we say that we "sincerely repent" of our sins? We've already said that we are truly sorry for them, so what beyond "being sorry" is involved in repentance? Or is our confession merely redundant by stating that we are heartily sorry for our sins and also sincerely sorry for them?

The word "sorry" has lost much of its meaning in the English language. It has essentially become synonymous with "regret." It does not convey the same impact that comes with "contrition," the word used within the catechism to convey the terror that comes with the recognition that our sins merit eternal damnation.

Therefore, with sincere repentance, accompanying our "sorrow" is a

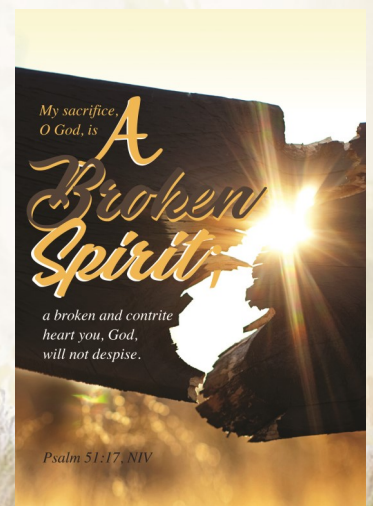
recognition of the seriousness of our sins (contrition) and a genuine desire to cease doing them, to turn to God for forgiveness and to the Word of God for direction. If there is no intent to change, if the plan is to immediately continue down the same sinful path as before, then our "sincere repentance" is hollow, worthless, empty words and not true contrition, not true repentance.

Turning from our sins and towards God involves a desire to walk in the ways of our Lord and not to trod in the footsteps of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. Repentance triggers a longing to walk by faith and not by sight; to follow the wisdom laid out in the Bible and not the evil teachings, the "human wisdom", of the secular

world. The fruit of repentance should, therefore, be good works.

Every Sunday we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners that deserve God's temporal (in this lifetime) and eternal punishment (damnation). We also avow that we are truly (heartily) sorry for our sins and sincerely repent of them. We end our confession by begging

Repentance, like faith and forgiveness, is a gift from God. It is a fundamental part of the Christian life. It is not just a once-a-week, Sunday morning thing. Since we are inherently sinful, and even if we strive to follow God's commands, we inevitably fail, we sin. Therefore, our guilt, our sorrow, our contrition for our sins and our desire, our intention, to instead follow God triggers the need for frequent, almost ongoing, repentance.





The devil, the world and our sinful flesh try to convince us that we're not that bad. Sure, we sometimes do the wrong thing, but most of the time we're "pretty good." However, this is a lie, a horrible lie, a damning lie. The truth is there is nothing inherently good in any of us. We all are poor, miserable sinners in desperate need of repentance and of the accompanying forgiveness. As we confess, we all deserve the eternal punishment that awaits those who don't believe, those who have chosen a life without God.

I said,  
"I will  
**confess** my  
transgressions  
to the **LORD.**"  
If you forgave  
the guilt of  
**my sin.**



Psalm 32:5, NIV

Thanks be to Jesus Christ that He does not leave us in this horrible state. Without the humiliation He underwent in becoming man and living a sinless life as a man, without His innocent sufferings and excruciating death, and without the Father taking out His wrath, His righteous anger against sin that is rightfully ours, on His

beloved Son on the cross, we would all be condemned to a future of eternal damnation, of eternal suffering the punishment for our sins.



The gift of faith, repentance, forgiveness is the pearl of great value. It is not only our ticket out of the eternal punishment for our sins, but it is also our ticket to eternal life with God, to eternal bliss with our fellow believers and with the heavenly host. It is of inestimable value, and it is intended to be shared, not to be hoarded, not to be hidden under a bushel.

Our God is a God of boundless love, who showed that love for us by taking on our punishment, by dying on the cross. This gift of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world, is wonderful news, something we so do not merit. We can never begin to repay Him; all we can do is thank Him, worship Him, sing His praise. And, most of all, share this wonderful news with others.



## THE VOICE OF SATAN

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds."*

2 Corinthians 10:4

We are all intimately familiar with the voice of Satan, that is, shame. We have all known shame from our earliest years in childhood and, unfortunately, have only become more intimate with that voice over the years. So intimate in fact that we all, each one of us, are embarrassed to truly talk about the closeness of this relationship.

For some of us shame has become so close that it seems to be physically embodied within our muscle and bone. It feels as if the piercing pain of shame has wrapped itself around every fiber of our being. So that when shame whispers, the body screams to disappear, to escape, to find relief in any means possible. This manifests in various ways: some starve themselves, others binge, while others drink themselves to oblivion, cut their skin so the pain seeps out, numb themselves through sexual acting out, shop until they drop, gamble away every penny they sweated for, work endless hours, use lethal amounts of drugs, and more. In a growing number of cases some can no longer handle the agony and elect for a permanent solution through suicide.

We are all intimately familiar with the voice of Satan, shame, and yet we are all too ashamed to truly talk about it. This is an unfortunate situation as it plays perfectly into shame's hand. Shame tells us that we are unlovable, unworthy, unwanted, intrinsically flawed. The voice of Satan tells each one of us that God does not love us or cares about us to truly help us. And so, we isolate ourselves out of fear of rejection and disdain of being truly known—and therefore, fully loved—by God and other people. In place of being fully known and loved we opt to wear a beautifully odious mask in front of others and before God as well.

The voice of Satan can be identified by reciting the Lord's prayer beginning with the word, "Our." Shame immediately excludes oneself from "Our." The voice of Satan says, "Oh no, hold on, this may be true of others, but it certainly doesn't apply to you. You don't belong in this 'Our'." After your divorce, your abortion, your relapse, your greed, your betrayal, your selfishness, you don't belong in this 'Our'." If you do not belong in 'Our' then God is not your Father, and saying the rest of the prayer is merely an exercise in futility.

We are all intimately familiar with shame, the voice of Satan, and yet we do not help each other often in our struggle against it. It is understandable why this is. In my own experience, when shame has been the only thing holding you when no one else would, it is excruciatingly difficult to confront and disown it. In a way, the pain of shame becomes an identity, inseparable from you as your muscle and bone are from your body. To face your shame is to face yourself, the classic phrase, "the worst enemy you can meet will always be yourself." To confront your shame by yourself is to perform open heart surgery on yourself. In a word: impossible.

The only way to confront shame is to have outside help and to ask for help is to invite someone to see the real you behind that beautifully odious mask.

This presents a conundrum: shame causes existential pain that leads a person to hide and isolate, yet to alleviate the pain of shame requires a person to be truly known by others. It is in this tension between pain and healing that the Holy Spirit's words ring true: for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. For the voice of Satan, shame, is one of false accusations. And the only effective weapon against false accusations, that is, shame, is truth, God's Word (John 17:17).

Actual spiritual warfare has nothing to do with curses, hexes, spells, and all that other gobbledygook. Spiritual warfare is this: the battle in yourself between believing what the voice of Satan says about who you are versus what God's Word says about who you are. Despite what shame says about you—that you are unlovable, unworthy, unwanted, intrinsically flawed, that God does not love or care about you—God's Word says otherwise.



*“Thus says the LORD, He who created you, He who formed you: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, your Savior. You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.’”*  
(Isaiah 43:1-4).

What sweet words these are for one’s heart. They cut through the dark embrace of shame that entwines itself along every muscle fiber of one’s body: thus says the LORD, I love you. I love you, God says to you—He loves you.

God loves you for no reason other than because He loves you.

Sweet words. Difficult words. True words. In the face of this truth, that God loves you, shame will parade before your mind’s eye the litany of your sins and ask you in front of each one, “Did God actually say He loved you when you did this? Oh, remember this? Did He really say that He loved you when you did that?”

The truth of the matter is, yes. Yes, He did. For, *“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*  
(Romans 5:8).

Oh, but is that really true when you abused your spouse and children? Is that really true in the darkness of night when you slipped away to look at porn or meet an affair partner? Did God really say that He loved you when you were looking for solace at the bottom of a bottle?

The truth of the matter is, yes. Yes, God still loved you. One can feel His heart in His call to you, *“Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Why will you die? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”*  
(Ezekiel 18:30-31)

Oh, that’s nonsense! God certainly did not love you when you were doing such things! How could anyone love you when you chose abortion? When you failed to protect your child? How could anyone love you when you abandoned your family and friends, when you lied, cheated, stole, killed to get what you wanted? How could anyone love you when you have been divorced? How could anyone love you for everything you did to numb the pain? How could anyone love you for everything you have done?

*“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you”*  
(Psalm 139:7-8, 11-12).

No matter where you are, no matter what you have done, no matter how high or low you have been, no matter what the voice of Satan says, no matter what you feel, no matter what the world thinks of you, no matter what I myself write, God’s Word stands forever: thus says the LORD, I love you.

As the Holy Spirit wrote to us:

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”*  
(Romans 8:31-39).



## From the Pew (Continued)

Addiction, abortion, divorce, abandonment, abuse, regret, shame, ALL is nothing in comparison to the love that God has for you. When you believe, despite everything you have done or has been done to you, that God still loves you, you can see how death is nothing more than sleep and how God's love can bring the dead back to life.

All these things I write not from thoughtful meditation, but from the hard knocks of life and the stories of men and women I have had the privilege of seeing behind their beautiful, odious masks. And if these things are true for me and them, then they are certainly true for you.

The weapons of a Christian's warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds built by the voice of Satan. Yet, you cannot destroy these strongholds on your own. You need God and others to do so. God has adopted you into a family of brothers and sisters to help you (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12), to hear your confession, to pray for your healing (James 5:16), and for you to do the same for them because they also hear the voice of Satan.

If you are ready to take the battle to these strongholds, then let us take off our masks and pray together. "Our Father. . ."

—Cody Moen

### Verses from the Article

John 17:17

*"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

James 5:16

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."*

### A Choral Piece the Choir Will Sing on March 30

He Died for Us

When we were sinners, Jesus came,  
And took upon Himself our blame;  
Willing to bear our sin and shame, He died for us.

The Son of God became a Man,  
Fulfilling God's eternal plan, conceived before the world began,  
He died for us.

There once stood a wall, deep and wide, strong and tall,  
There it stood built of all our unholiness.  
But this Man, by His blood broke the wall  
Loosed the flood of the mercies of God for us all.

So now God offers to each one  
A priceless pardon for what we've done;  
Because of Jesus, His own Son  
Who died for us.

He died for us.

Words and Music by Jimmy Owens  
Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

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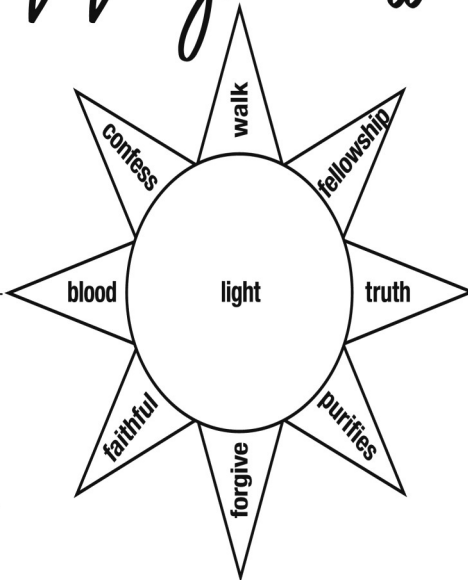


# PUZZLE



# The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?



**Directions:**

*Use the coded shapes  
to fill in the blanks and  
complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.*

But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, as he is in the \_\_\_\_\_,  
we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_  
of Jesus, his Son, \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin. If we claim to be  
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us.  
If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is \_\_\_\_\_ and just and will  
\_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## 1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, fellowship, blood, purities, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 78:45 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22  \_\_\_\_\_

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M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



# Personal Reflections

Judy Burhans

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*

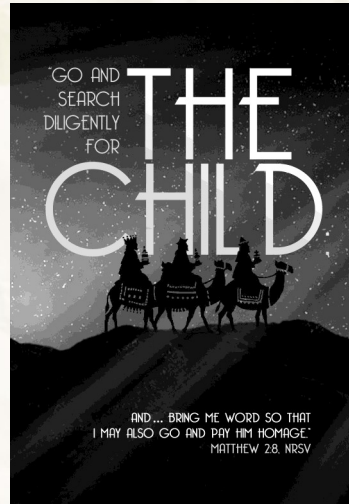
*But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'*

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

*Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

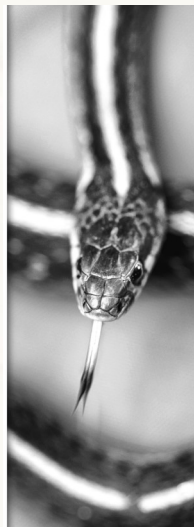
*And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

(Genesis 3:1-8)



*"Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.'"*

(Matthew 2:7-8)



*"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd."*

(Luke 22:1-6)

SO **Judas**, HAVING  
PROCURED A **band**  
OF **soldiers**...  
WENT THERE WITH  
**lanterns** AND  
**torches**  
AND **weapons**.

Does that about sum up where we are today? The lies, the secrets, the underhandedness, the deceit, the greed, the false gods. What does this say about *us*? What does this say about our God?

How God, who is holy, sinless, who created us, could want to redeem us - is unheard of. And yet, He sent His only Son to earth to fix all of this.

The cost of our redemption is truly the greatest gift we could ever receive.

What are we doing with it?



*"O Lord my God, when I in  
awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds thy hands  
have made. . . ."*

These are the words to a song that was written by Carl Boberg, who lived from 1850 to 1940. Actually, upon further study, the song was not quite the way it is now. The original version was written as a Swedish poem by Carl after being caught in a storm that was phenomenal with lightning and heavy-duty thunder. When he made it to the safety of his home and after the storm had passed, he opened his windows to hear the sound of church bells in the distance, thrushes singing their song, and the calm that comes after the storm. In the peace that followed, he wrote "O Store Gud," which translates to "O Mighty God."

*"I see the stars, I hear the rolling  
thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe  
displayed. . ."*

Translated into German, Russian, and eventually translated into English in 1925, this was an ongoing work of art that still was not the song we know, today. In 1930, an English missionary heard the Russian version of the song while in the Ukraine. He and his wife sat down and sang the song, took some liberties with the words and title, and in 1949, the song appeared as "How Great Thou Art."

*"When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. . ."*

Still, the song was not a hit until a British-American theologian and evangelist, Edwin Orr, heard the song in India in 1954. He was there, not to listen to music, but to preach. However, when he heard the words to the song, he brought it back to America and showcased the song at a conference for college students where he was speaking. And here is where the song found its beginning:

At this conference, there just happened to be in attendance;

- ◇ Tim Spencer, a singing cowboy and actor, who sang with Bob Nolan and Roy Rogers. At that time, Spencer owned Mana Music publishing company.
- ◇ Once published by Mana Music, the song was picked up by George Shea, a soloist in Billy Graham's traveling crusade.
- ◇ Billy Graham made the song his evangelical crusade's signature song.
- ◇ Because of George Shea's reach, the song was sung in stadiums filled with thousands of people; was televised in the 1957 Madison Square Garden Crusade, which ran for 16 weeks and was viewed by an estimated 96 million people.
- ◇ Switching gears, the song was sung and recorded by Elvis, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Loretta Lynn, and Carrie Underwood.
- ◇ And finally, in 1982 (it could have appeared before then, but this is the oldest Lutheran hymnal after The Lutheran Hymnal that I could find), it appeared in Lutheran Worship and in 2006, our current LSB.

*"Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!"*

There are two more beautiful verses to this hymn, quite appropriate for the season and for all time:

*"And when I think how God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burdens gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:"*

*"When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,  
To take me home, what joy will fill my heart!  
Then I will bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!"*

(<https://americansongwriter.com/behind-the-song-carl-boberg-how-great-thou-art/>)



# CALENDAR

# TIME CHANGE - MARCH 9

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:30 PM - Mardi Gras Fundraiser for Youth
2 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	3 6:00 PM - Worship	4 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	5 10:15 AM - HHR 12:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 PM - Choir 6:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service	6	7	8 10:00 AM - LWML
9 TIME CHANGE 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	10 6:00 PM - Worship	11 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Directors	12 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Lent Midweek Service 7:15 - Choir	13 10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee	14	15
16 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	17 6:00 PM - Worship	18 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders	19 10:15 AM - HHR 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Lent Midweek Service 7:15 - Choir	20	21	22
23 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	24 6:00 PM - Worship	25 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	26 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Lent Midweek Service 7:15 - Choir	27 10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee	28	29 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
30 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	31 6:00 PM - Worship 7:00 PM - Chinese Food on Jordan					