

# The Little Church on the Prairie Lakewood Grace



*Lenten Devotional  
Booklet  
2021*

# A Look Back To See Forward

**Monday, February 22, 2021**

**HOW CAN YOU RESIST TEMPTATION?**

**READ:** Matthew 4:8-11; Deuteronomy 6:13:14

**OPENING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, may we recognize that the Holy Spirit who dwells in us can help us resist temptations that turn us away from you. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** The third and final temptation of Jesus was to attain power and dominion over the known world if he only worshiped Satan. Jesus was able to resist because he was filled with the Holy Spirit whom he received when he was baptized just before he entered the wilderness and fasted for forty days. With authority, Jesus curtly said, "Beat it, Satan!" (*The Message*, by Eugene Peterson)

Jesus was tempted just as we are. "Temptations are not a bad thing in themselves, but it is what we do with them that can help us turn to God or away from God." (Commentary from Marquette.edu)

How can we apply this passage to our daily lives? The very fact Jesus was tempted is proof of his humanity, that he sympathizes with us and sets an example for us to follow. When we become a Christian, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and comes to our aid to help us resist giving in to the temptations that separate us from God.

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** There is no temptation that we cannot resist as long as we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit who is in each of us.

Becky Huber

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**WORSHIP THE LORD**

**READ:** Luke 4:1-8; Deuteronomy 6:13

**OPENING PRAYER:** Lord, open our minds to honestly look at our hearts and assess how we approach worship of you each week in community. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** When Mike and Robin told us that they wouldn't be leading worship at Lakewood*grace* anymore, I thought, "Oh NO! I can't worship there anymore. I don't want to be sad when I experience the loss of them each week."

Before that, I had been pondering if God was using this COVID-19 pandemic to revitalize the way Christians worship together, but I didn't expect to be grouped with the masses that I felt had missed the heart of what worship was! God has an awesome sense of humor – guess I was called to look inwardly and apply my own questions.

How are we doing in our hearts when it comes to worship? Are we distracted by the quality of the music, the song choices, the AV glitches, the mistakes by the folks standing in front, or by what we think of the words spoken by the pastor during the sermon? All of these distractions point to a heart focused on self and what I can get from the worship experience. It is almost as if we believe that worship is about us and our needs instead of expressing our worship to God.

Are our hearts focused on praise and adoration? Sunday gatherings give us the opportunity to share together in our worship of God, not to meet our own needs, which can be a consequence when we genuinely worship, but not the goal or purpose.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord, renew our hearts by putting you only as our focus for worship. Renew in us clean hearts, Lord. Amen.

Karen George

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

**DEMAND FOR A SIGN**

**READ:** John 6:30-34; Exodus 16:4, Nehemiah 9:15, Psalm 24-25

**OPENING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, open my heart to receive the message that Jesus was trying to impress on his disciples 2000 years ago. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** Jesus is talking with his disciples shortly after the feeding of the five thousand. In the verse just before our reading, Jesus has just made a great claim. The true work of God was to believe in him! The disciples were challenging Jesus to produce bread from God as a sign to substantiate his claim. They did not regard the bread which had fed the five thousand as bread from God: it was earthly bread. Manna was a different thing.

Jesus told them that the manna was not the true bread of God. The true bread of God was he who came down from heaven not to give physical relief from hunger, but to give life – eternal life. Jesus claimed that the only real satisfaction was in him. Jesus wanted his disciples to change their reference point.

Can we believe without seeing a sign? Believing without seeing is faith. Faith is more important than physical objects. Our faith is what sustains us, particularly during the difficult times in our lives. If we keep waiting for signs, we will miss out in life. There will always be longings. We will never attain real satisfaction. We, too, need to change our reference point. We don't need signs. We need Jesus.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, Father, for giving us Jesus, the true bread of life. Our faith in him is the key to salvation. Amen.

Alice Amblad

**Thursday, February 25, 2021**

**MADE HOLY THROUGH THE BODY OF JESUS**

**READ:** Hebrews 10:5-10; Psalm 40:6-8

**OPENING PRAYER:** As we enter this Lenten season, Lord, help us to be open to your Spirit so that we see afresh your gift of the new Covenant. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** For the Israelites, animal sacrifice was a major cultural/religious practice. I've always thought it was weird and have trouble relating to the concept of animal sacrifice which is now so far removed from the world's experience. And yet by faith, I believe that God honored this practice in sending Jesus to earth because it was the most relevant way at that time to help people to understand his mission and great love. At the moment of his death the big heavy curtain in the Jewish temple separating the people from the presence of God was torn in two from top to bottom. We now have access to God directly through his Son, Jesus.

The new Covenant is established and no more sacrifice is needed. But we have a tendency to burden ourselves with the equivalent of sacrifices instead of believing God's word that "By his will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear God, please help us to remember that your Son has already paid our price and to live into his forgiveness. Amen.

Mary La Tourelle

Friday, February 26, 2021

**BE HOLY**

**READ:** 1 Peter 1:13-16; Leviticus 1:44-45, 19:2, 20:7

**OPENING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, please help me to keep my eyes fixed on you as I go step by step through each day so that I may be strong to walk in your ways. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** “Give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) is a quote from Paul. I am reading this as I open my *Daily Word*, a daily devotional I have read for 30 years. It has never been more relevant than this last year, as COVID-19 has changed our daily lives, how we view ourselves, our neighbors, and the world.

It is easy to get lost in the circumstances that surround and affect us when we are not able to do the things that, not that long ago, we took for granted – go out for lunch or dinner with a group of friends, go to a movie or the theatre, attend church with all its activities, take that trip you booked, and exchange hugs with family and friends. It’s a lot easier to give thanks when everything is going well.

But God calls on us to be obedient in tough times as well as good times. He is calling on us today to stay in his Word, be obedient, be Holy, and take action. By listening to him and setting our hope on him, he will lead us to be Holy in our actions. We can be Holy as he is Holy in all that we do, by being both merciful to others and by looking outward. We will be doing his work. By being Holy and doing his work, we will also heal ourselves.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear heavenly Father, please give me the self-control, obedience, and faith of a child to be Holy in all that I do because you are holy. Amen.

Judy Eng

**Saturday, February 27, 2021**

**THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH**

**READ:** Romans 1:16-17; Habakkuk 2:4

**OPENING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, help us live a life by faith by allowing us to look forward with hope and the assurance that you will free us from our sins. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** Paul longs to share his faith with the Romans – to share the gospel and to proclaim that we are righteous in our faith and that we are not saved by our works – that only the grace and mercy of God can save us.

Thus, faith will guide us in our daily lives through troublesome times. Our burdens are our sins. Our troubles are those of the world and those of modern times. How we live our lives can lift the burdens and ease those troubles.

Are we living in a manner that glorifies God? Are we a reflection of God's goodness and power? By endeavoring to be non-judgmental, offering humble service to God, loving others, and living our lives as a living sacrifice to him, we are able to leave behind our sins and look forward to eternity with God.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, in my faith I have total trust in you. I ask that you deepen my faith and guide me to live a life that reflects my belief in you. Help me to remember that I live by faith not only in what Jesus did on the cross, but also in his work today and tomorrow. In Jesus' name, amen.

Phil Eng

**Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2021**

**NOT EVEN ONE**

**READ:** Romans 3:1-12; Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20

**OPENING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, help us to take comfort in your message and know you better through your words. Amen.

**MEDITATION:** “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who does good, not even one.” Our text sounds a little harsh. How could there not even be one who does good? How about Mother Teresa? No one is righteous? How about Job? When we define righteous and good by our human standards, it may be difficult to understand the concept of “not even one”. The standard for righteousness is God’s perfect love demonstrated through his Son. The true standard is God’s perfection.

Not even one.... We may do some good deeds, but when we are measured by God’s standard of good and righteous, no one, not even one is good and righteous. We could try our best with good deeds and living as best as we can, but our actions will always fall short because we are all sinners. So then, where does our hope come from? Our hope comes from our Lord who offers his gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ. Christ is our hope, our only hope.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, Lord, for being our good and righteous God. Help us to follow your ways and put our hope in you today and every day. Amen.

Helen Kim

## **THE CHARGE TO EACH OTHER**

*Go out into the world in peace;*

***have courage;***

*hold on to what is good;*

***return no one evil for evil;***

*strengthen the fainthearted;*

***support the weak, and help the suffering;***

*honor all people;*

***love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.***

From the Book of Common Worship