

Sunday, March 7, 2010
Third Sunday in Lent
East St. Olaf Lutheran Church
6200 County Road 3 SW - Byron, MN

Pastor: Darby Lawrence Organist: Patricia Nelson

INTRODUCTION

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Vibia Perpetua was a noblewoman, and Felicity her slave, who were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and are not worthy to be called your children.
Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.
Bring us back to you as those
who once were dead but now have life,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Through the Holy Spirit,
God gives life, freedom from the power of sin,
and resurrection from the dead.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Live in newness of life.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: #777 *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on
them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.\

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1–8

¹O God, you are my God; eager-¹ly I seek you;
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry
and weary land where there¹ is no water.**

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
my lips shall¹ give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
and lift up my hands¹ in your name.

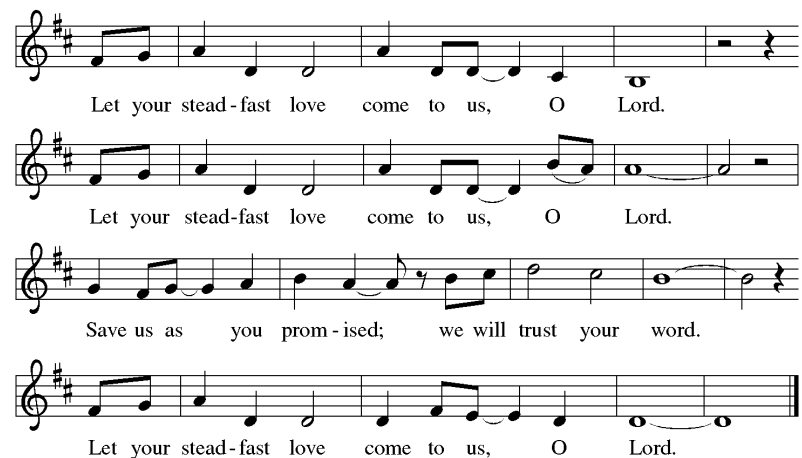
⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you up-¹on my bed,
and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.

⁷For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.

⁸My whole being¹ clings to you;
your right hand¹ holds me fast.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.
Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1–9

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come

looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, you call your church to be a witness to your steadfast love. Grant that the work of ministers, teachers, missionaries, relief workers, and all the baptized may be faithful and fruitful. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, all you have made is good. Teach us to care for the earth, the sea, the sky, and all living things with love and reverence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Just God, your ways are beyond human understanding. Give those in positions of authority wisdom and compassion for all who suffer. Bring relief to victims of natural disasters, violence, and oppression especially the people in Chile and Haiti. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful God, hear the cries of the sick and dying, the hungry and homeless, the lost and forgotten especially Aden, Scharlene, Ludie, Iva, Bev, Mary Ann, Helen, Alice, Gayle, Marvin, Mildered, Bill, Monica, Mya, Jeff, Marietta, Daniel, Frezil, Keith, Alice, Karen, Elina, Kent, Leon, Helen, Darcy, Helen, Christ, Sharon, Leon, Laurine, Matt, and Donnie. Bring healing and hope, food and shelter, love and compassion to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, teach us to seek your will in all things. Deepen our faith and give us strength to follow wherever you lead us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bridegroom of the Church, You bless all Christian congregations everywhere and give them the power to spread your Word. We

especially pray that you bless Evanger Lutheran, Bricelyn Lutheran, Dennison Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, San Marcos Lutheran, and Issuna Lutheran. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for all the faithful departed who now rest in you (*especially Perpetua and Felicity and their companions, the martyrs at Carthage, whom we commemorate today*). Grant that we might follow their example of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the one in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

(SING) *Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
And uphold me with your free Spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,**

**but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #542 *O Living Bread from Heaven*
HYMN #618 *Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer*
HYMN # 629 *Abide With Me*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG # 536 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

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RE-GIFTING

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God gives us gifts so that, like the fig tree in Jesus' parable (Luke 13:6-9), we might bear fruit. These gifts take many forms. Some are dramatic: the cancer goes into remission, the addiction is acknowledged and faced. Sometimes God's gifts are more common: gifts of friends and family, home and work. All people are blessed by God with talents and abilities. All gifts from God share this in common: God's gifts are never an end, they are always a beginning.

Healed, you discover new opportunities to experience life, and new opportunities to serve in the name of Jesus. Sobriety is a blessing to the individual, but it can also bring healing to families and allow people to discover a calling to help others on their journey towards sobriety.

Financial blessings from God allow people to provide for their families, to purchase food, clothing, and shelter. Through those same blessings you experience the joy of generosity. The varied gifts from God bless you in many ways, but if God's gifts are received and never touch another life, something is missing.

Jesus is a gift sent from God. One of the many gifts he brings is the gift of forgiveness. Forgiven by Jesus we forgive others. It is a gift we are called to re-gift, for forgiveness comes to us as a beginning, leading to countless more gifts. Re-gifting the ugly sweater you were given last Christmas might not be appreciated, but re-gifting God's gifts is always a grace-filled act. Consider all that God has blessed you with, and pray for guidance. May you re-gift forgiveness and mercy, may you re-gift joy and compassion, may you re-gift your talents and your treasures. By re-gifting, you bear fruit to the glory of God.

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COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Vibia Perpetua was a noblewoman, and Felicity her slave, who were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Wednesday, March 10

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Friday, March 12

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

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East Prayer List: Aden Rud, Rev. Frezil Westerlund, Scharlene Schroeder (sister of Carol Mestad), Ludie Frey, Iva Sattre, Bev Brandt, Mary Ann Boelter, Helen Thompson, Alice Watson, Gayle Robinson, Marvin Brandt, Mildred Braaten, Bill Fritts, Monica McDonnough, Mya DeCook (daughter of Ryan and Jennifer)

West Prayer List: Jeff Mittelstadt, Marietta Fjerstad, Daniel West, Keith Morris, Alice Tiegen, Karen Hanson, Elina Senjem, Kent Fjerstad, Rev. Leon Holtan, Helen McEmber (sister of Ardean Bjornson), Darcy Jacobson, Helene Harper (mother of Sally West), Chris Woodwick (nephew of Ardean and Carma Bjornson), Sharon Larson, Leon Luker (Susie Thoe's brother)

Those with a long term need for our prayers: Laurine Gulbransen, Matt Miller (nephew of Carma Bjornson and Julie Boyum), Donnie Senjem

OUR APPOINTMENTS

WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	Soup Supper at East
	7:00 PM	Lenten Service at East
THURSDAY	9:00 AM	Pastor in Office Till Noon
	10:00 AM	Bulletin Deadline
FRIDAY		Pastors Day Off
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	West Worship Service
	10:00 AM	Sunday School East & West
	11:00 AM	East Worship Service

Thank You to those serving us today

Altar Guild: Carol Mestad
Reader: Andy Lawrence

Lenten Worship will continue at East on Wednesday at 7 PM. There will be a soup supper served at 6 PM. Services will alternate each week on Wednesdays at 7 PM preceded by a soup supper.

The time of Lent—Six local Lutheran pastors are teaming up to proclaim the story of Jesus in a powerful way over the next few weeks, each transforming him/herself into a Biblical character who

was an eyewitness to Jesus' life, death and resurrection as part of a shared mid-week Lenten worship series. The schedules is as follows:

- Feb. 24 (**East**) – Barabbas – Pastor Darby
- Mar. 3 (**West**) – Judas – Pr. Gene Leiter, Red Oak Grove
- Mar. 10 (**East**) – Claudia (Pilate's wife), Pr. Lissa Kahl, Evanger
- Mar. 17 (**West**) – Dismas (thief on the cross), Pr. Glen Bickford, Bear Creek, Grand Meadow
- Mar. 24 (**East**) – Peter, Pr. Paul Hauschild, Trinity, Hayfield

Daylight Savings Time- Don't forget to set your clocks back next Saturday night.

Parsonage Farmland Bids - We will be accepting sealed bids for the parsonage farmland. Bids are to be in the Church office by noon, Thursday, March 25th. The bids will be for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 season. The total acreage is 12.9 acres. Will take possession on April 1, 2010 - weather permitting the present corn to be harvested. Questions, contact Steve Senjem, 208-0034 or Pete Estby, 365-8808.

Pastor Frezil did well in surgery and has returned home to South Dakota to continue her recovery. Her address is Pr. Frezil Westerlund, P.O Box 196. Philip, SD 57567.

BENEFIT BREAKFAST: There will be a benefit breakfast at the Hayfield American Legion today from 8 AM to 1 PM. Proceed will be used for the HONOR FLIGHT PROGRAM to send WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see the WWII veterans memorial. Menus: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, rolls, muffins, coffee, juice, and milk.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Benefit for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson on Saturday, March 20th from 8 to 11 AM. Bake sale, Quilt Raffle, Hand Made Note-cards, Luminaries for purchase. Free will donation.

Next Week's Reader: Justin Mansfield

Attendance and Collections: Attendance: 74. February 24 - Current: \$125.00, Benevolence: \$372.57. Last Sunday – Current: \$1,129.50, Benevolence: \$20.00, Education Aid: \$35.00, World Hunger: \$100.00.

PRAYERS FOR CONGREGATIONS - We are "Called into God's Marvelous Light" to be Christ-Centered Disciples. This week we are asking for prayers for the following:

Evanger Lutheran in Sargeant

Bricelyn Lutheran in Bricelyn

Dennison Lutheran in Dennison

Faith Lutheran in Janesville

San Marcos Lutheran in Church in Columbia

Issuna Lutheran Church in Tanzania

Pastor: Rev. Darby Lawrence Cell 258-0381

revdarby@gmail.com

Secretary: Dennis Wendt: 507-365-8222 eastwest@kmtel.com

Home: 507-533-9365 or 273-3226 dennywen@prodigy.net

Taking Faith Home . . . March 7, 2010

Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Judgment against the olive tree
Tuesday	Ezekiel 17:1-10,22-24	Two eagles and two cedar shoots
Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live!
Thursday	Hosea 14:1-7	Return to the Lord
Friday	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
Saturday	Psalms 34:11-22	Turn from evil and do good
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

Scripture Verses for the Week:

Turn to the Lord! He can still be found. Call out to God! He is near.

Give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts. Return to the Lord our

God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.

- Isaiah 55:6-7 (CEV)

Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, please keep me from falling away from you. Help me to stand firm. Amen. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord God, I turn to you. Please show me mercy. Amen.

(Isaiah 55:6-7)

A Blessing to Share:

May God satisfy your deepest needs. May he show you his kindness and be your helper. Amen. (Psalm 63:3-7)

Mealtime Refrain:

God's love is better than life: **Let us praise him.** (Psalm 63:3)

Mealtime Prayer:

Mealtime is here, O what a spread!

Thanks be to God, who gives us bread. Amen.

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Are you a patient or an impatient person? What do you find it hard to be patient about?
- Read Jesus' parable about the fig tree (Luke 13:6-8). Where do you see patience shown in this story? How is God patient with us?
- How do you think God would like to see you grow or change in the next year of your life?

Devotional Practices:

The theme of repentance runs through the Bible readings for March 11. God gives us the Ten Commandments to show us his will for us, and to lead us to examine our thoughts, words and actions. In your home devotion times this week, listen together to the Ten Commandments and talk about what they mean.

- You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, or their manservant, or their maidservant, or their cattle or anything that is your neighbor's

Service:

Isaiah 55:1-2 says "Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters." Commit to drinking only water at home this week. Estimate what you will save as a result and donate it to a worthy cause. Use this opportunity to reflect on God's gift of water and our new birth through the waters of baptism.

Rituals and Traditions:

Make crosses from bars of hand soap as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. Draw a cross shape on each bar of soap, then carefully carve away the excess soap using a table knife. Place soap crosses in your bathroom and kitchen soap dishes, or in the kids' baths. You could also place soap crosses in small gift bags to give away to friends and relatives.

