

DAILY DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

This order of prayer may be used as a guide for daily devotions time and prayer for individuals and families. In group settings, one person may read the words in regular type and the others may respond with the words in bold type.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I cry to You, O LORD;

in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psalms 88:13

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 51:12

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Psalms 71:8

Every day I will bless You

and praise Your name forever and ever.

Psalms 145:2

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Psalms 103:1

Hear my prayer, O LORD;

let my cry come to You.

Psalms 102:1

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A hymn or psalm may be sung or spoken.

A reading from the weekly lectionary is read.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

(The Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers, and other prayers may be found in the back of this book.)

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

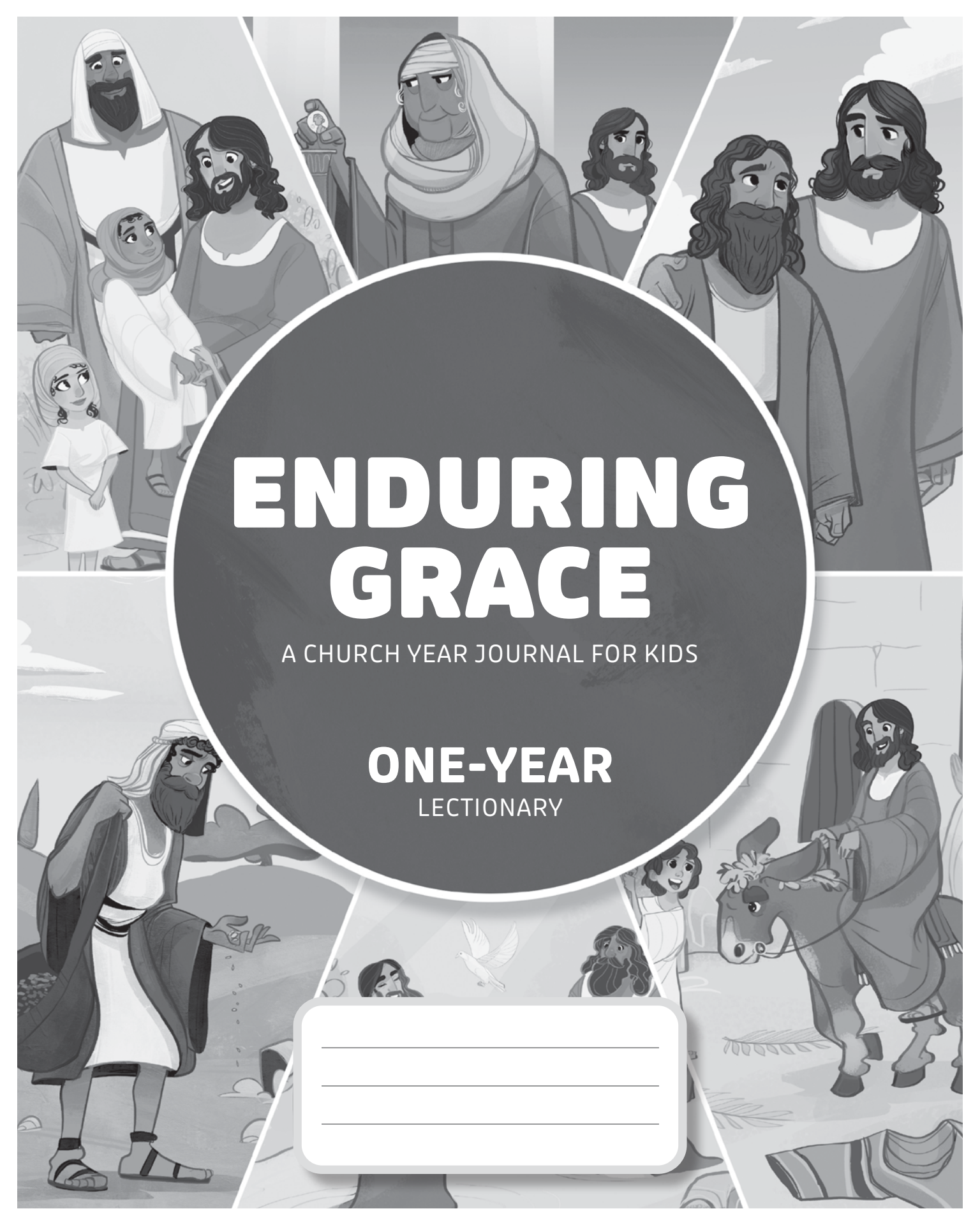
Let us bless the Lord.

Psalms 103:1

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.



ENDURING GRACE

A CHURCH YEAR JOURNAL FOR KIDS

ONE-YEAR
LECTIONARY



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Text on the seasons and festivals are drawn from the following CPH resources:

A Year with the Church Fathers: Meditations for Each Day of the Church Year © 2011 Concordia Publishing House.

Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Lutheran Service Book: Hymn Selection Guide © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Lutheran Service Book: Pastoral Care Companion © 2007 Concordia Publishing House.

Lutheranism 101: Worship © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Ordering Our Days in His Peace: An Introduction to the Christian Church Year © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

Treasury of Daily Prayer © 2008 Concordia Publishing House.

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How to Use This Journal

Dear reader,

God's Word is a great gift, given to us "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). This journal was created to help you enjoy time in God's Word throughout the week.

This journal outlines the Scripture readings for every Sunday from the One-Year Lectionary and provides introductions to each season and fourteen festivals of the Christian Church Year. Reflections on the readings, discussion prompts, Bible illustrations to color, space for journaling and prayers, and hymn suggestions from *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* give you and your family the opportunity to enjoy time in God's Word together and encourage one another in the faith.

Getting started

Each Church Year calendar cycle begins with the First Sunday in Advent. If you are beginning this book in Advent, simply turn to the first pages. If you are beginning at another time of the year, you can find the correct page by finding out which Sunday of the Church Year you last observed at church, by asking your pastor, or by looking up a calendar for the One-Year LCMS Lectionary. There are more Sunday readings in this journal than are celebrated each year. The date of Easter, which moves each year, determines the dates for other events in the Church Year. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is in the seventh week before Easter. The Ascension of Our Lord is on a Thursday, forty days after Easter Day. The Day of Pentecost is seven weeks, or the fiftieth day, after Easter. An early celebration of Easter means there will be more Sundays after Pentecost. A later Easter means there will be more Sundays after Epiphany.

Introduction to the Church Year and the One-Year Lectionary

What is the Church Year?

The Church Year tells the true story of the life and work of Jesus Christ. It takes us on a journey through His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The life of the church is centered around the life of Christ. As we celebrate each part of His life, we are reminded of God's great love for us in Jesus, our Savior. Celebrating faith events around a calendar isn't new. In Old Testament times, God commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Passover and other festivals each year as a remembrance and celebration of His gifts, promises, and blessings. Early Christians adapted some of the Jewish festivals, recalling historic events that were important to their faith. Christians also added their own unique celebrations, which revolved around events in the life of Jesus.

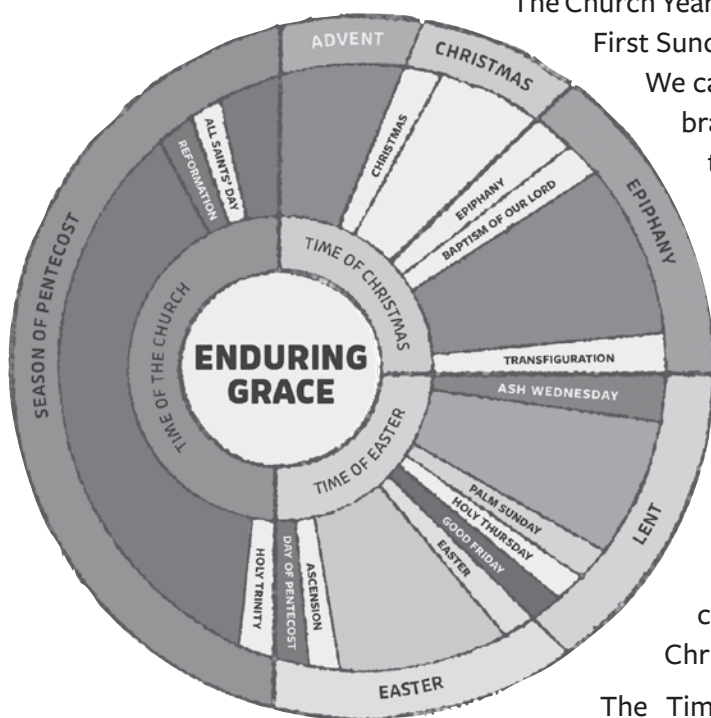
What is a lectionary?

A lectionary is a collection of Scripture readings, or lections, for the Church Year. Early Christians kept the Jewish practice of reading portions of the Pentateuch and the Prophets, adding readings from the Gospels and the Epistles as time went on. Through the years, various patterns of reading Scripture were used in different places. As the Church Year seasons and festivals developed, readings aligned more closely with the Church Year.

The readings in this lectionary journal are part of a one-year lectionary that has roots in historic lectionaries, including those used at the time of the Reformation. The yearly repetition of key passages from Scripture lays a solid foundation for catechesis. Additionally, the One-Year LCMS Lectionary has value in its historic connections to Luther's sermons on the Gospel and Epistle readings and Lutheran hymnody written to accompany and support the historic Western lectionary.

As you read, journal, and pray over the Scripture in this lectionary, may the Spirit strengthen your faith through our God's precious, saving Word.

The Church Year Calendar



The Church Year calendar has two halves. The first half begins with the First Sunday in Advent and goes through the Day of Pentecost.

We call this the festival half, since during this time we celebrate important events in the life of Christ. Throughout this half of the year, we hear what God the Father has done and continues to do for us through His Son, Jesus. The nonfestival half of the year begins on Trinity Sunday and goes through the Last Sunday of the Church Year. The second half of the year focuses on the life of the church as it is strengthened daily by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

The Church Year is also divided into three sections: the Time of Christmas, the Time of Easter, and the Time of the Church. Each time includes smaller units called seasons. Within each season, we celebrate special days called feasts or festivals, such as Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost.

The Time of Christmas includes the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The Time of Easter includes the Lent and Easter seasons. And the Time of the Church includes the season after Pentecost. In the Time of Christmas, we remember how the Father sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Time of Easter focuses on Jesus' payment for our sins through His suffering, death, and resurrection. The Time of the Church, the season after Pentecost, shows the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the church.

For centuries, the church has used colors and symbols to help teach about the seasons and festivals of the Church Year. The colors and customs of each season and festival help tell the message of the readings and events in the Church Year.

A companion book, *Enduring Grace: A Church Year Journal, One-Year Lectionary*, is available to use alongside this journal. The full texts of each Sunday's Scripture readings for the One-Year LCMS Lectionary are printed in this beautifully illustrated, hardcover book. The book also provides a printed hymn text and Reflection on the Hymn for each season and fourteen festivals of the Church Year. Using the two resources together will help kids, adults, and families connect and grow in faith as they engage with God's Word.



THE ADVENT SEASON



The Christian Church Year begins with Advent. Advent begins four Sundays before December 25 and ends on December 24. Many churches have midweek services in Advent. During these services, we remember our sins and our need for a Savior, and we prepare for Jesus' coming.

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for Christ’s first coming as a baby in the manger at Bethlehem. But we also look ahead to Christ’s second coming, when He will return in glory and take all believers to be with Him forever.

The story of Jesus in Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. The color of Advent is violet or blue. Violet represents royalty and repentance, and blue symbolizes anticipation and hope.

Many congregations use an Advent wreath to mark the four Sundays leading to the celebration of Christmas. An Advent wreath has four candles—three blue or violet and one pink—one for each week in Advent. As these candles are lit each week, our excitement grows as we look forward to Jesus’ coming.

**A HYMN FOR THE ADVENT SEASON:
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME (LSB 332)**

THOUGHTS, DRAWINGS, AND NOTES



First Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Read Jeremiah 23:5–8.

I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. Who is the “righteous Branch” who would come from the line of David and bring justice and righteousness? See also Isaiah 11:1–9.

Epistle: Read Romans 13:11–14.

Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. The Bible often uses the imagery of darkness and light to symbolize evil and good. See John 1:1–13.

Gospel: Read Matthew 21:1–9.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Why is the Palm Sunday account a fitting text to hear and sing about as we enter into the season of Advent?

Psalm: Read Psalm 24.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? Only those who have “clean hands and a pure heart” (verse 4) can stand before our holy God. Give thanks to Jesus that He came to wash away your sins and bring you close to Him.



THEME OF THE READINGS

“Behold, your king is coming to you.” During Advent, we wait for Jesus. He is our hope and the fulfillment of all God’s promises. As we wait, we proclaim Jesus as the king who came down from heaven to save us. He gives us “clean hands and a pure heart” by washing away our sins, making it possible to come near to Him.

THOUGHTS, DRAWINGS, AND NOTES ON THE SCRIPTURES & SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY: SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME (LSB 332)****PRAYERS****Thanks & Praise:****Requests:****BIBLE VERSE TO MEMORIZE**

**Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory! Psalm 24:10**



Second Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Read Malachi 4:1-6.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet. Malachi prophesied the coming of someone like Elijah, who would preach repentance to God's people. How did John the Baptist fulfill that prophecy? See Luke 3:3-14.

Epistle: Read Romans 15:4-13.

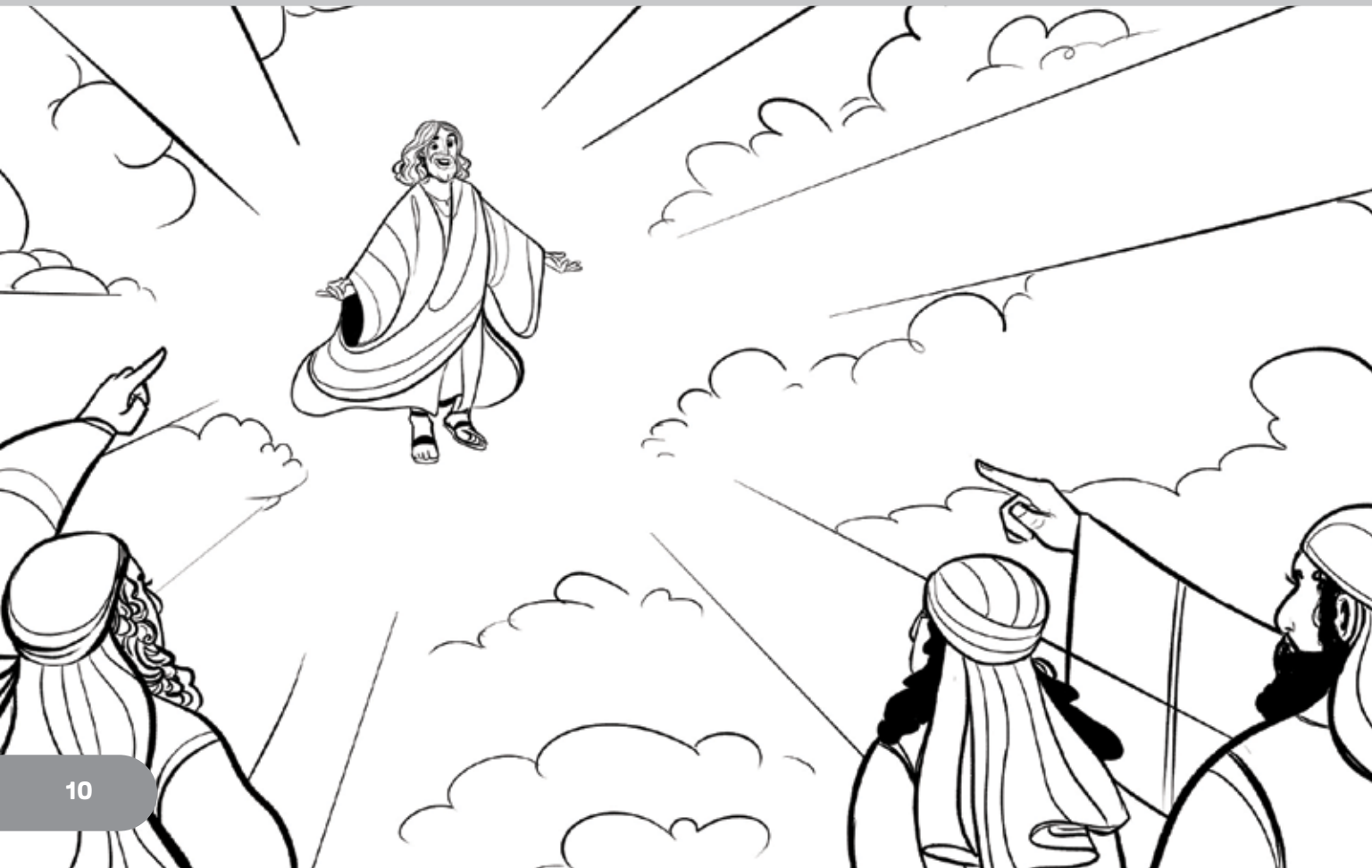
Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you. The quotes from the Old Testament in verses 9-12 show that the Savior came for all people: Jews and Gentiles (people who are not of Jewish descent). What does this passage tell us about how God's people are to treat one another?

Gospel: Read Luke 21:25-36.

They will see the Son of Man coming. In this passage, Jesus is telling His disciples what will happen when He, the Son of Man, comes again. We don't know when Jesus is returning, but He tells us to be ready. How can we be ready? See John 3:16.

Psalm: Read Psalm 50:1-15.

The Mighty One, God the LORD . . . God doesn't need anything from us—He is the Mighty One! What does He want and expect from us (verse 14)? What does He do for us (verse 15)?



THEME OF THE READINGS

God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming to earth by calling people to repentance. Similarly, Jesus told His disciples to watch themselves and to be ready for His second coming. God has given us His Word to teach us and to give us hope as we wait for Christ to come again. We rejoice because He saves us.

THOUGHTS, DRAWINGS, AND NOTES ON THE SCRIPTURES & SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY: LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING (LSB 336)****PRAYERS****Thanks & Praise:****Requests:****BIBLE VERSE TO MEMORIZE**

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Psalm 50:15

