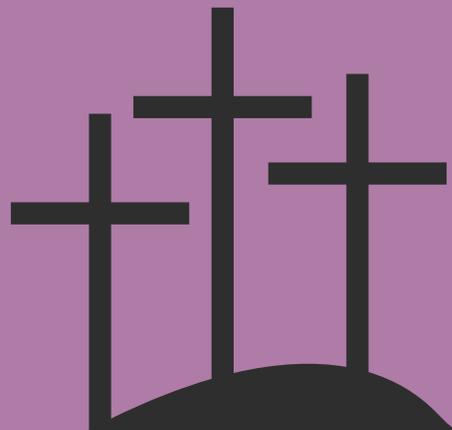


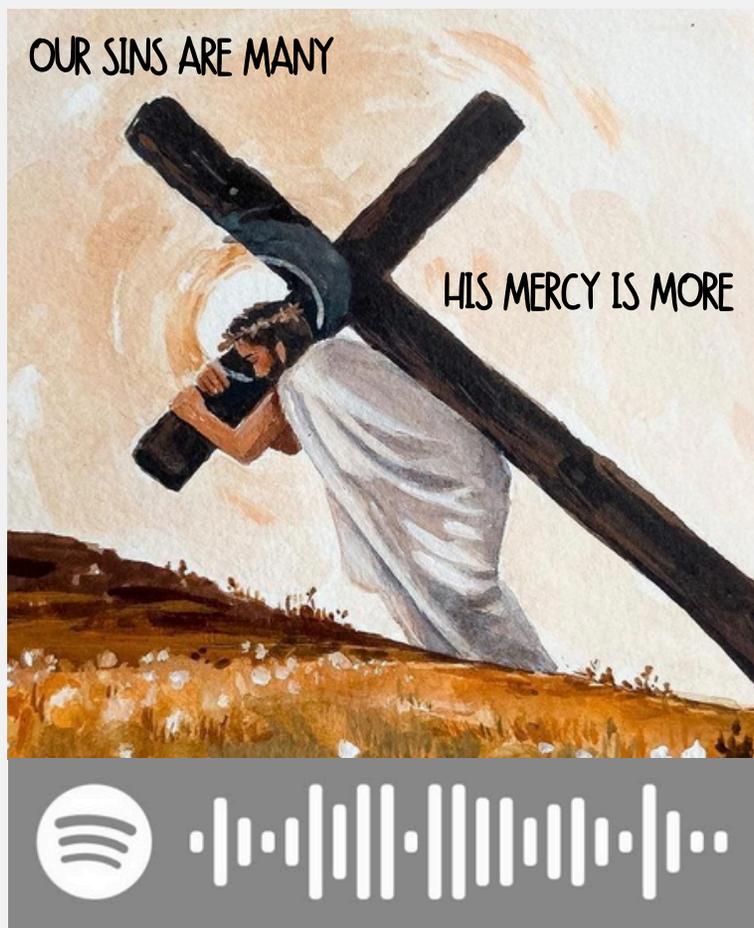
THE JOURNEY OF CHRIST TO THE TREE OF LIFE!



JESUS  
TREE

A LENTEN FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Jesus Tree playlist on Spotify  
with a song for each story of Lent



# JESUS

THE JOURNEY OF CHRIST TO THE TREE OF LIFE!

## TREE

Life burst forth from Jesus Christ

Everywhere He went.

Healing, teaching, water-walking,

Raising people from the dead!

Then, one sad day on a tree lifted high

God's only Son for sins would die.

But what looked like wood of shame and strife

Was really a glorious Tree of Life!

So, with this tree in the season of Lent

We take time to remember our sins and repent.

These stories of Jesus help us to see

That death leads to resurrection victory!

# CAREGIVER GUIDE

Let's practice dying and rising during the season of Lent. We die to sin and self when we confess our wrong thoughts and actions to God. We rise to new life when we trust that God declares our sins forgiven because of Jesus. This is the Christian life. What a beautiful and vital habit to nurture in our little ones and continue to practice ourselves.

This devotional is designed with stories for each Wednesday and Sunday of the Lenten season and for each of the special days in Holy Week. There is a scripture to read, a prayer of repentance to repeat, a declaration of forgiveness to trust, a song of reflection to enjoy, and a sticker to attach to the cross.

The short lessons of forgiveness are based on the 10 Commandments and the story of the day. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes, "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." But confession doesn't just happen in church. Luther also speaks of Biblical confession in three settings: 1) private confession to a pastor; 2) confession to God alone (as in the Lord's Prayer); and 3) confession made to fellow Christians. It is our prayer that you will grow in grace and love toward one another as you teach your children about confession and create opportunities to assure one another of Christ's forgiveness as a family.

As your child is able, we encourage you to have them repeat short phrases of the confession after you. Then, take some time to discover the shape of their conscience by letting them add any confession on their heart. Give them examples by confessing one or two of your own sins from the past few days, or gently ask them about something you noticed them struggling with. Don't dig if you can't readily think of anything to confess, just use the given prayer. If the sins your child shares involve the harming of another member of the family in any way, take the chance to reconcile and forgive one another. Then, the head of the household can speak God's forgiveness over everyone!



## Wednesday: 1

Story: The Curse

Scripture: Genesis 3

Symbol: Cross of Ashes

Song: "Lord, Have Mercy"

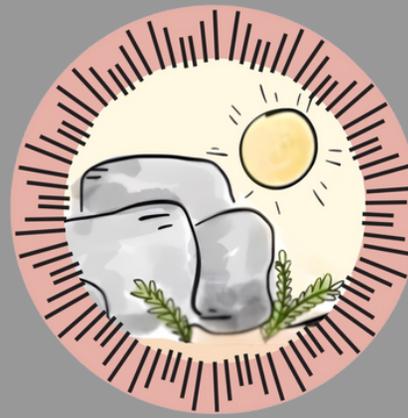
**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for cleaning the curse in my heart & making me new. I am sorry for trying to hide my sins or blame others for my mistakes. I am sorry for disobeying my parents and disobeying You. I am sorry, God, for not trusting You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Sunday: 2

Story: Jesus Tempted

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Symbol: The Wilderness

Song: "1 John 1:9"

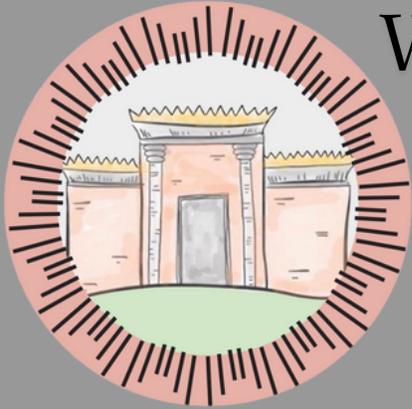
**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for keeping God's rules perfectly for me. I am sorry for making bad choices when I feel like it. Thank You for showing me how to fight bad feelings with Your truth. I am sorry for lying & not paying attention to Your words more. I am sorry, God, for not trusting You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Wednesday: 3

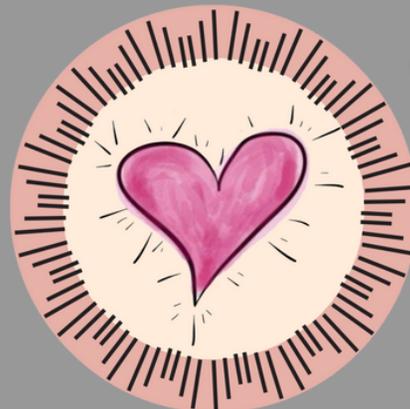
**Story:** Temple Cleansed  
**Scripture:** John 2:13-22  
**Symbol:** The Temple  
**Song:** "Create in Me"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for creating my body and making me a temple of Your Holy Spirit. I am sorry for not caring for my body better and for hurting others. Thank You for making me part of Your body, the church. I am sorry for not being zealous to be in Your house. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Sunday: 4

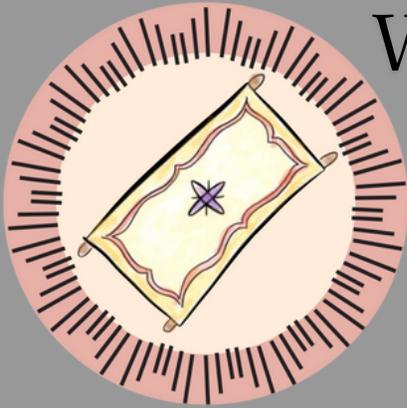
**Story:** Zacchaeus is Loved  
**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-9  
**Symbol:** Joyful Heart  
**Song:** "Jesus Loves Me"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for loving me first. Thank you for seeking me, saving me, and loving me even when I do bad things. I am sorry for complaining, for being jealous, and for not being happy for others when they get good things. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Wednesday: 5

**Story:** Paralytic Healed  
**Scripture:** Mark 2:1-12  
**Symbol:** Lame Man's Cot  
**Song:** "All My Sins  
Are Forgiven"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for healing my heart and making my feet ready to get up and share Your love. I am sorry that I look to other things for healing before You. I am sorry that I try to forget my sins to feel better when only You can forgive. Help me to walk in Your ways. I am sorry for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Sunday: 6

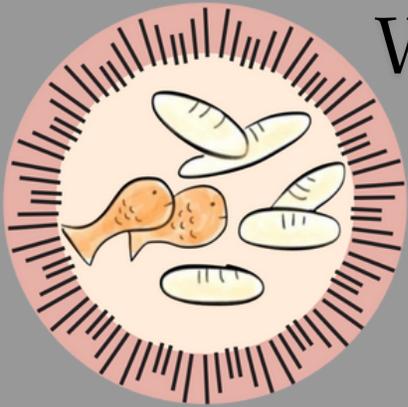
**Story:** Storm Calmed  
**Scripture:** Matthew 8:23-27  
**Symbol:** Wind & Waves  
**Song:** "It is Well With  
My Soul"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for being in control of everything. I am sorry that when hard times come, I worry first and don't believe in Your perfect, loving plan for me. I am sorry for having little faith when you tell me not to be afraid. I am sorry, God, for not trusting You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Wednesday: 7

Story: 5000 Fed

Scripture: Matt 14:13-21

Symbol: Loaves & Fish

Song: Be Present at Our Table, Lord

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for providing food for me every day and giving me everything I need. I am sorry that I complain and want more stuff but I don't hunger for more of You. Thank You for feeding Your people with Your body and blood. I am sorry, God, for not trusting You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace!



## Sunday: 8

Story: Jesus on Water

Symbol: Water-Walking

Scripture: Matt 14:22-33

Song: "God Walks Before Me"

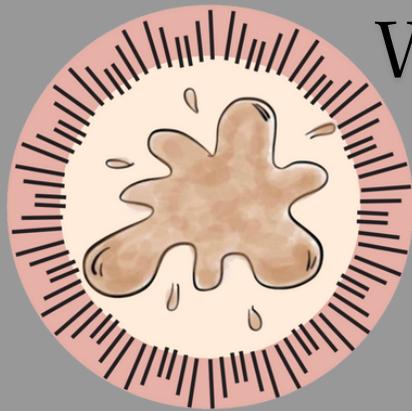
**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for reaching out Your hands to save me through the waters of baptism. I confess that I often fear lots of things instead of trusting You. I am sorry for not always coming to You in prayer in times of trouble. I am sorry, God, for not trusting You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace!



## Wednesday: 9

Story: Blind Man Healed

Scripture: John 9:1-11

Symbol: Mud Mixture

Song: "Amazing Grace"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for giving me eyes of faith to know that You are with me even though I can't see You yet. Thank You for mixing water and Your word with my dusty flesh in baptism to wash away my sins. I am sorry for being afraid to share Your story and for forgetting to praise and thank You. I am sorry for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace!



## Sunday: 10

Story: Lazarus Raised

Scripture: John 11:11-44

Symbol: Grave Cloths

Song: "I Am the Resurrection"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for already raising me from the dead: once in baptism, again and again when You forgive my sins, and one day in a new body when you return. I am sorry for putting my hope in other things besides You. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

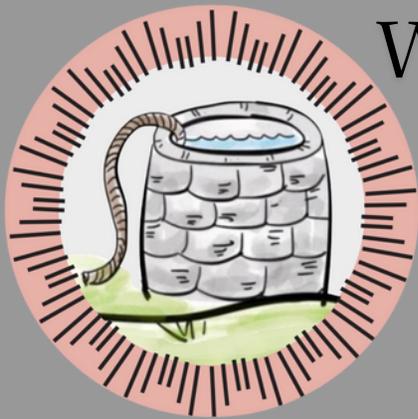
- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace!



## Wednesday: 11

Story: Woman at the Well

Scripture: John 4:5-26

Symbol: Jacob's Well

Song: "Dig Down Deep"

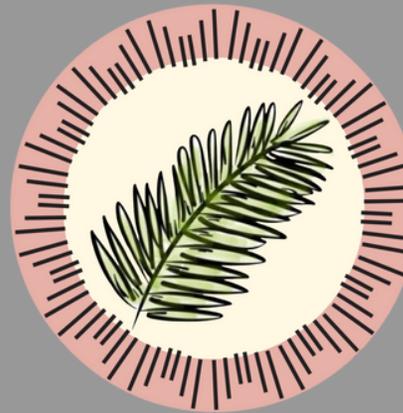
**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for giving me the Bible so that I can drink from Your word of life all the time. I am sorry that I often don't want to learn Your word. I am sorry for filling my mouth with mean words instead of thankfulness & praise. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace!



## Sunday: 12

Story: Triumphal Entry

Scripture: Matt 21:1-11

Symbol: Palm Branch

Song: "Clap Your Hands All Ye People"

**Confession** - Hosanna, blessed is the name of the Lord. I am sorry that I do not always treat Your name as holy. I am sorry for using it carelessly or to curse instead of calling on Your name in prayer and praise. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.

I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace!



## Thursday: 13

Story: Last Supper  
Scripture: Mark 14:12-25  
Symbol: Bread & Wine  
Song: "The Last Supper"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for giving Your body and blood on the cross for my sins. Thank You for being truly present with Your church today in the bread and wine of communion. I am sorry for betraying You when I fail to love You and others. I am sorry, God, for not loving You the most.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Friday: 14

Story: The Crucifixion  
Scripture: Matt. 27:29-54  
Symbol: Calvary  
Song: "His Mercy is More"

**Confession** - Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to forgive my sins. I have sinned in my thoughts, with my words, and by my actions. I am sorry for all of my sins that You carried to the cross. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not made sacrifices to love others. I cannot free myself from sin.

- add any other sins that trouble you here -

Lord have mercy. Please forgive me.  
I want to do better.

**Forgiveness** - It is finished. You are clean. God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Go in peace!



## Sunday: 15

**Story:** The Resurrection

**Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12

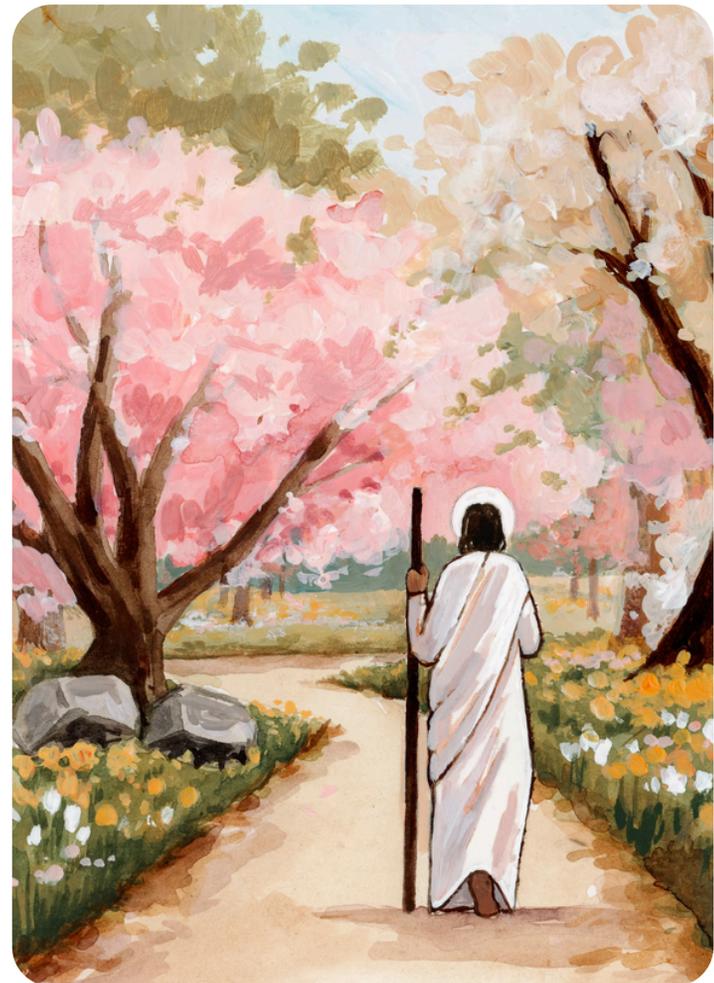
**Symbol:** Empty Tomb

**Song:** "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

**Easter Prayer** - Thank You, Jesus, for rising from the dead to bring me the promise of eternal life. Thank you for finding me, forgiving me, and calling me Your friend. Thank You, Jesus, that when You return to earth again my grave will be as empty as Yours, my life will be as eternal as Yours, and my joy will be as full as Yours. Thank You for being my life, my joy, and my resurrection now and forever. Amen

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HE IS  
RISEN!





THE TREE

THE JOURNEY OF CHRIST TO THE TREE OF LIFE!

THE SONS

