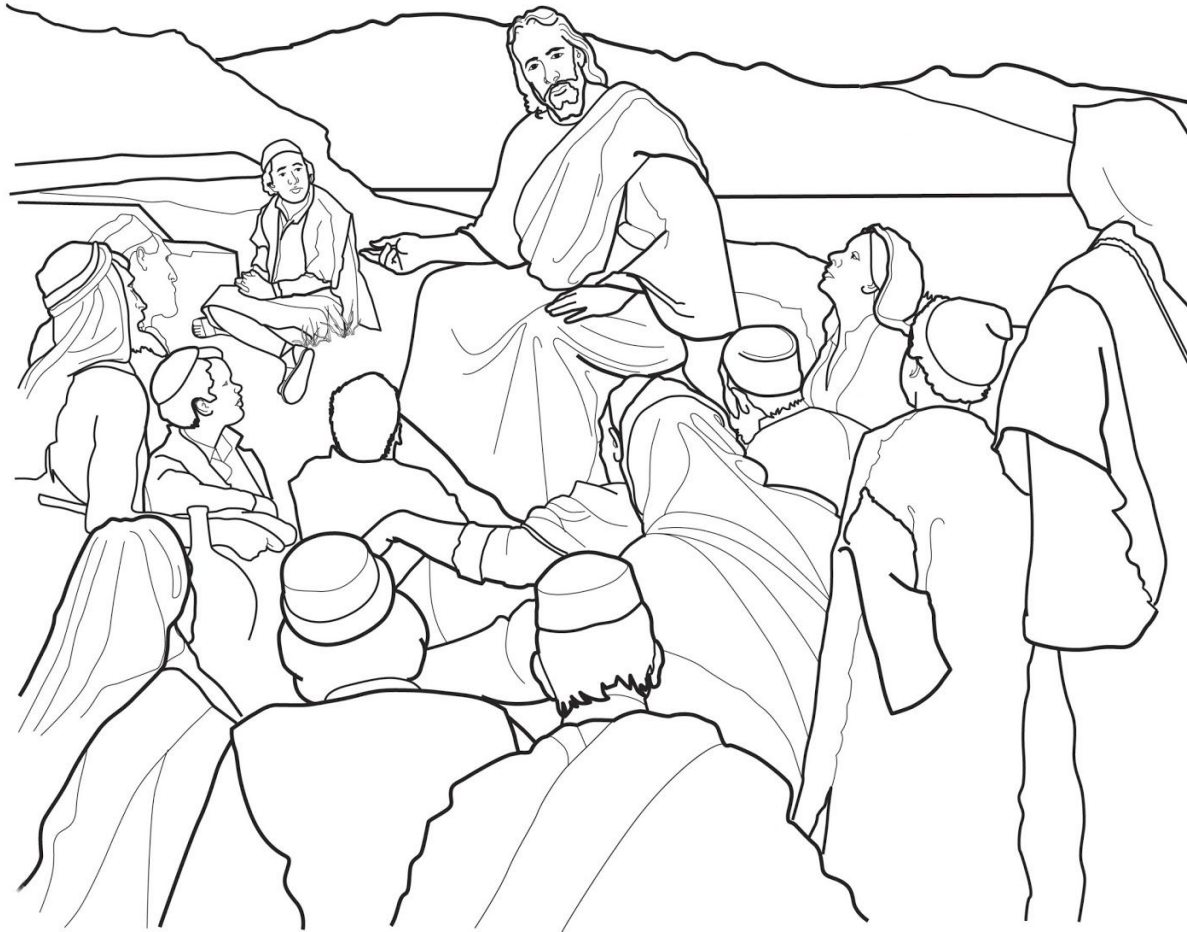


† 40 Days of Walking the Way †
Week 2



Baptism — The Way of Faith:
Listening to the Creator

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠
“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | February 24, 2021

Invocation

Father, Creator of heaven and earth, ✠ **we thank you for your daily love and care.** ✠ Son Jesus, servant of all, ✠ **we follow your example.** ✠ Holy Spirit, presence of life, ✠ **rule and dwell in our hearts and community.** ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we listen to you with our minds, bodies, and whole lives.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Into your loving hands ✠ **we place our worries, stresses, and burdens.** ✠ In stillness and patience ✠ **we wait on you in all things.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪ (tune: GC2 23, twice)

Baptism — The Way of Faith

The Creator wants to save all of his creation from Civilization.

✠ **So the Creator is calling me to let go of the Way of Civilization and become a lifelong disciple who follows the Way of Jesus.**

But breaking free from your addictions to the Way of Civilization is scary, painful, and difficult to imagine.

✠ **It means the death and rebirth of my entire self and life.**

Only the Creator can accomplish this through his sacraments.

✠ **In the sacrament of Baptism, which begins with water and his word, the Creator immerses me into his story and life.**

Through his lifelong work of Baptism, the Creator

✠ **daily destroys my old life in the Way of Civilization, forgives and releases me from it, and resurrects me into a new life on the Way of Jesus.**

The Creator is rebuilding your life around Jesus-centered habits, patterns, and disciplines.

✠ **I receive the Creator’s work of Baptism through Faith.**

♪ Lord, baptize us and wash away our sin. Lord, baptize us and change our hearts within. Lord, baptize us and grow our discipline. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do! ♪ Lord, baptize us to never be afraid. Lord, baptize us to love all you have made. Lord, baptize us to share your help and aid. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do! ♪ (tune: LSB 677)

Prayer for the Way

Father, help us to

✠ **daily walk on Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Help us to live by Faith and in our Baptism

✠ **by surrendering & listening to the Creator.**

Help us to live by Hope and in Repentance

✠ **by confronting our past & waiting on the Creator.**

Help us to live by Love and in Communion

✠ **by sharing with the church & caring for all creation.**

Father, help us to

✠ **daily follow Jesus in all things. Amen.**

Song ✠ *LSB 418 “O Lord, throughout the Forty Days”*

♪ O Lord, throughout the forty days your focus was to pray. You lived by faith and left behind Civilization’s Way. ♪

♪ You were tempted to take control, but you would not give in. You knew that pow’r and wealth come from the evil way of sin. ♪

♪ In weakness and fragility, you trusted God above. Please teach us to deny ourselves and imitate your love. ♪

♪ We trust that you will give us strength to learn from you each day. Be with us as we follow you and walk Jesus’s Way. ♪

† Listening to the Creator †

Listening Litany

The second practice of Faith is listening.

✠ **The Creator’s word and story is the greatest treasure.**

It is more important than food.

✠ **It is the life-source and power of walking the Way of Jesus.**

Through listening to Jesus,

✠ **I will be completely changed and will be able to move mountains.**

But without listening

✠ **my Baptism journey will fail.**

♪ Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪
(tune: LSB 770)

Reading ✠ Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The reading comes from Deuteronomy 6. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

“Letting Go of Distraction & Following with Focused Attention” Litany

Remove the obstacles and barriers

✠ **to the Creator’s word in your life.**

Do not be distracted by

✠ **media, productivity, or entertainment.**

Do not numb

✠ **or over-stimulate yourself.**

Quiet your mind

✘ **of all voices except for Jesus's.**

Listen at all times

✘ **for the Creator's voice in creation.**

Stay aware and ready

✘ **for the Creator to speak or act in every situation.**

Song ✘ *LSB 699 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

♪ I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad. ♪

♪ I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live." I came to Jesus, and drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him. ♪

♪ I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light. Look unto me; thy morn shall rise and all they day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done. ♪

Reading ✘ Hebrews 11:32—12:3

The reading comes from Hebrews 11. ✘ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✘ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

"Letting Go of Arrogant Certainty & Following with Humble Learning" Litany

Do not put your confidence in

✘ **human intelligence, knowledge, and science.**

Do not pridefully assume

✘ **you are right and know what you are doing.**

Do not assume anything

✘ **about anyone based on a label or category.**

Be aware of your own ignorance

✘ **and open your mind to new discoveries.**

Learn from the creation, Jesus's followers,

✘ **and the writings of the Church.**

Filter, judge, and interpret

✘ **all past and present ideas through Jesus's Gospel.**

Song ✘ *LSB 918 "Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Redeemer"*

♪ Guide me oh my great Redeemer, as I journey through this land. I am weak but you are mighty, hold me in your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, daily feed me. Feed me with your word of truth, feed me with your word of truth. ♪

♪ Open now your Spirit fountain, where your healing waters flow. Let your fire refine and cleanse me, changing me as I do grow. Jesus Savior, ever

help me. Always be my strength and shield, always be my strength and shield. ♪

♪ When I stand on the brink of change, help my anxious fears subside. Save me now from fear's way of death, bring me across the divide. Move me forward, as I follow, keep me daily on your Way, keep me daily on your Way. ♪

Reading ✕ James 1:19-27

The reading comes from James 1. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

“Letting Go of Hypocrisy & Following with Undivided Allegiance” Litany

Do not say one thing

✕ **while doing another.**

Do not put forward

✕ **a false self.**

Do not be divided in loyalty

✕ **by trying to serve two or more masters.**

Give your undivided loyalty to the Creator

✕ **in every aspect and area of life.**

Make every decision and action

✕ **while giving your full allegiance to the Creator.**

Message

Reflection

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For giving in to our addiction to the Way of Civilization and not listening to you, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕ For being distracted and not giving you our focused attention, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕ For being arrogant about what we think we know and not being open to humbly learning new things, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕ For being hypocrites and not giving you our undivided allegiance, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕ For not faithfully living in our Baptism, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕ Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ **Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.** ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you leave behind the Way of Civilization and walk in the Way of Jesus?

✕ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✕ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✕ **Amen.**

Song ✕ **LSB 707 “Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”**

- ♪ *Oh that the Lord would guide my ways, to keep his teachings still. Oh that my God would grant me grace, to know and do his will. ♪*
- ♪ *Send down your Spirit now to write, your law upon my heart. Nor let my tongue indulge deceit, nor act the liar's part. ♪*
- ♪ *Now guide my footsteps by your word, and make my heart sincere. Let sin have no dominion Lord, but keep my pathway clear. ♪*
- ♪ *Lord assist me when I do stray, a stricter watch to keep. And should I lose your loving Way, restore your wand'ring sheep. ♪*
- ♪ *Help me to walk in your commands, a most delightful road. Nor let my head or heart or hands, offend against my God. ♪*

Musical Offering

Benediction

May the Lord bless you with humility, reminding you that you are but dust. May he forgive and release you from your brokenness and addictions. May he shape you into the loving and trusting character and image of Jesus. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Song ✻ *LSB 424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"*

- ♪ *O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go. You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe. ♪*
- ♪ *No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts. Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts. ♪*
- ♪ *No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above. Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love. ♪*
- ♪ *When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine, Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align. ♪*
- ♪ *O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go. Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe. ♪*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- “40 Days of Walking the Way” - Join us on Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 pm as we immerse ourselves in Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love.
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions on “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church.” Kevin and Luke are leading us in a discussion about the character and practices of the early church and how we can shape our own direction and life as a church in similar ways.