

# Daily Devotions



**Monday, 11/26/2018**

**Psalm 16**

Over the years, friends and family have given me crosses as presents, and each cross has ended up hanging above my sofa on the living room wall. I often stand and stare at my wall of crosses. I look at each cross and remember the love I have for the person who gave it to me. Each cross is also a reminder of the love I have for God. I have taken refuge in God more times than I can remember. Each time I have felt inadequate or unworthy, God has lifted me up and sent angels to guide me. Each cross represents an angel sent into my life to support and encourage me. I talk with God every day and know the crosses are on my wall as a reminder to stop and listen to what God has to say to me. *Lord, in our busy lives, help us to take time to pray, but also to stop and listen to the counsel and words of love and wisdom you have written in our hearts. Amen.*

Nicole M. Garcia, '18, Director of Congregational Care, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colo.

**Tuesday, 11/27/2018**

**Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25**

I make the sign of the cross across my body many times a day. It is an old habit, but it is also a constant reminder of the love I have for Jesus Christ and the love my Lord has for me. The resurrection of Jesus destroyed death and gave us the promise of eternal life. We have been given the gift of grace. I hold fast to the promise of God through the prophet Jeremiah, quoted in today's reading from the letter to the Hebrews: "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." That is the incredible gift of grace given to us as followers of Christ. Rooted in grace, we go forth and spread the good news that the gift of grace is for everyone. We are called to rejoice in the love God has for each one of God's creatures. Making the sign of the cross is, for me, a constant reminder of the promises of God. *Lord, may we constantly be reminded of the love you have for each of us. You loved us so much, you sacrificed your life in order to give us eternal life and the forgiveness of our sins. Let us rejoice in this gift of grace. Amen.*

Nicole M. Garcia, '18, Director of Congregational Care, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colo.

**Wednesday, 11/28/2018**

**Mark 13:1-8**

The point of this reading from Mark is not to predict the precise timing of the end of the world, even though some might be tempted to read it as such. This passage is not so much about what is to come, but about what is actually happening around Jesus' disciples. During the 2,000 years since the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the temple has been destroyed and the Roman Empire has fallen. There have been earthquakes and famines, but humanity continues to thrive upon the earth. Jesus' words invite us then to think not so much about rulers and kingdoms on earth, but about the kingdom of God. The stone structures of humanity may tumble and fall, but God will always love and care for us. God will not abandon us. We are called to live in faith and to trust in the word of promise God has bestowed upon us--the gift of grace given to us through Jesus Christ. *Lord, the world may seem to be coming to an end because of the carelessness of humanity, but we will hold fast to your covenants and the gift of grace given to us, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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**Thursday, 11/29/2018**

**Mark 13:1-8**

There are times when it feels like I am standing in the middle of a tornado and I have no idea what is really going on in my life. When I feel out of control and my life is running me ragged, I have to stop and question my relationship with God. I have to ask myself, "When was the last time I have actually stopped and talked *with* God?" When I do this, I usually come to the realization that my life is out of control because I have been the center of my life and God has been pushed aside. We human beings build structures to make ourselves feel secure, but real security only comes when we take the time to nourish our relationship with God. Reading scripture and taking time for daily devotions are precious means of giving thanks for all we have, but we must also converse with the Lord to nurture our relationship with God. *Lord, nothing we build as human beings is ever permanent. Lord, help us to remember that you have always been with us and invite us daily to talk with you and nurture the relationship you crave to have with us, for we are all your children. Amen.*

Nicole M. Garcia, '18, Director of Congregational Care, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colo.

**Friday, 11/30/2018**

**"All Glory, Laud, and Honor," ELW 344**

*Refrain*

*All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

*1 You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. Refrain*

*2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. Refrain*

*3 The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. Refrain*

*4 To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. Refrain*

*5 Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. Refrain*

The gospel reading this week from Mark and the reading from Daniel both talk about destruction and anguish. But there is also hope, as in the reading from Daniel: "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky." And in Mark, where we read that the rumblings of the earth are like the "beginnings of the birth pangs." The end is really a new beginning, and the beginning only points us to a glorious end, if we truly believe that all glory, laud and honor belong to our Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ. Each year we await the birth of our Savior and Lord; we celebrate the coming of David's Son. We live in this hope, for Jesus is indeed our Lord and our Redeemer. *Lord, we sing your praises and we are your children who sing sweet hosannas, for the love you have for us is never-ending. All glory, laud and honor are truly yours. Amen.*

Nicole M. Garcia, '18, Director of Congregational Care, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colo.

**Saturday, 12/1/2018 & Sunday, 12/2/2018**

**"Thine Is the Glory," ELW 376**

*1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.*

*Refrain*

*Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!*

*2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,  
risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting! Refrain*

*3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above. Refrain*

The scripture readings for this week have touched upon the fear we all have about what the future will bring--the fear of failure, the fear of rejection, the fear of not being loved. All our fears may come true if we do not live in hope and faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and encourage each other with the words of God's promise. Unceasing faith in the resurrection gives me hope and fills my heart with joy. Life may not always be just what I expect, but I know the love of Jesus will sustain me, for he has conquered death and given us all the incredible gift of grace. *Lord, I may not always have the right words or do everything perfectly, but I believe you are always with me and you take away my fear and gloom. You give me hope, and in my faith, you restore my life. Amen.*

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