



St. John's Lutheran 2021 Lenten Devotional

"For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)

"Weak" is not a word we like to hear, let alone be. For many of us, weakness stands for so much wrong in our world and lives today that it is viewed as something to avoid at all costs. But what if weakness was a strength? What if our weakness brought blessings innumerable? What if our weakness was a good thing, because it meant our complete, total reliance on the strength of another...Jesus Himself?

To many, Jesus seemed "weak". Why did He hang out with "sinners"? Why did He forgive the seemingly unforgiveable? Why did He not heed the words, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" as He hung, bleeding and dying, on a cross? But Jesus knew better. He knew His grace was sufficient, for His power was made perfect in weakness. He knew His love for sinners was what they desperately needed. And He knew that His death on the cross, which painted Him as the weakest of the weak, was actually His greatest strength: where sin was forgiven, the devil was overcome and death destroyed.

The "strength" that Jesus shows us at the cross is what He gives us in our weakness. When we sin, He forgives. When we are anxious, He comforts. When we fail, He never leaves us. When we die, He gives eternal life. The entire life of a Christian can be summed up in these words: "When I am weak, HE IS STRONG FOR ME."

Our Lenten Devotional for St. John's this year of 2021 will focus on our sinful weakness and His righteous strength. We will read passages from both Old and New Testaments that show just how "weak" many "heroes of the faith" were...and how the Lord was their strength in their weakness. We will see ourselves in these passages, as we rejoice that the Lord Jesus

comes to us in our moments of weakness, loving us, forgiving us and giving us His strength that, paradoxically, was demonstrated on the cross.

2/17: Genesis 3:1-15 (Theme verse(s): v.15)

2/18: Genesis 15:1-6 (v.6)

2/19: Exodus 3:1-12 (v.12)

2/20: Exodus 12:1-13 (v.13)

2/21: Exodus 14:10-18 (v.13)

2/22: Numbers 21:4-9 (v.9)

2/23: Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (v.7-8)

2/24: Joshua 1:1-9 (v.9)

2/25: Judges 7:2-7 (v.7)

2/26: 1 Samuel 17:42-49 (v.47)

2/27: 2 Samuel 12:1-13 (v.13)

2/28: 1 Kings 19:9-18 (v.18)

3/1: 2 Kings 4:1-7 (v.7)

3/2: 2 Kings 6:8-17 (v.17)

3/3: Psalm 6 (v.4)

3/4: Psalm 27 (v.14)

3/5: Psalm 51 (v.7-8)

3/6: Isaiah 1:10-18 (v.18)

3/7: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (v.34)

3/8: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (v.14)

3/9: Matthew 4:1-11 (v.1)

3/10: Luke 5:1-11 (v.8-10)

3/11: Mark 2:13-17 (v.17)

3/12: Luke 7:36-50 (v.47)

3/13: Luke 18:9-14 (v.14)

3/14: John 7:53-8:11 (v.10-11)
3/15: John 10:11-15 (v.11)
3/16: Mark 8:31-35 (v.34-35)
3/17: Matthew 11:25-30 (v.28)
3/18: Mark 10:17-27 (v.26-27)
3/19: Romans 5:1-8 (v.8)
3/20: Romans 7:13-25a (v.25-25a)
3/21: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (v.23-24)
3/22: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (v.7)
3/23: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (v.9)
3/24: Galatians 2:15-21 (v.20)
3/25: Galatians 5:16-24 (v.18)
3/26: Ephesians 2:1-10 (v.4-5)
3/27: Ephesians 6:10-18a (v.13)
3/28: Luke 19:28-40 (v.39-40)
3/29: Philippians 1:18c-21 (v.21)
3/30: Philippians 3:1-11 (v.8)
3/31: Philippians 4:10-13 (v.13)
4/1: John 13:1-17 (v.14)
4/2: Isaiah 53:3-6 (v.6)
4/3: 2 Corinthians 5:1-7 (v.7)
4/4: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (v.26)