



ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT Reading the
2014 Gospel of
John

It is my prayer that you will use Lent as an opportunity to read the entire Gospel of John. Each day you can be encouraged by knowing that other people are reading the same scripture passages. Together our journey to the cross this Lent will follow the contours of the Gospel of John. Be bold in making a commitment to read the whole Gospel. If you miss a day or two along the way, you can certainly catch up.

Reading a Gospel in its entirety is a great way to learn the story of Jesus and prepare ourselves to proclaim Christ in word and

deed. When we know the story of Jesus we are in a better position to share the story and proclaim the impact on our lives. Reading the Gospel of John you will discover it begins without a birth story like the Gospel of Luke and sounds more like the opening of Genesis. When you hear someone speak of Jesus as the bread of life, do you recall John 6? When you hear someone speak of abundant life, do you connect it to John 10? There are great stories filled with symbolic actions in John. Some of you will choose to pay attention and note the role of light and darkness in the Gospel including scenes that happen at night and in the day time. Some of you will be delighted with the people Jesus meets in the Gospel of John including Nicodemus, the Samaritan Woman, and Nathaniel to name just a few of them. As I read through the Gospel of John in the Lutheran Study Bible, I included a brief note or question for reflection based on the reading for the day.

Throughout the season of Lent, Holy Week, and the season of Easter the Gospel of John is found in our readings for worship. Holy Week draws upon the Gospel of John on Maundy Thursday where Jesus washes the disciples feet and calls upon disciples to love one another in chapter 13. On Good Friday, the passion reading comes from the Gospel of John. The reading plan that follows takes you through the whole Gospel of John prior to Maundy Thursday. Readings are assigned for each day of the week dividing the Gospel into forty sections. While Sundays are not included when the Church counts the forty days of Lent, readings for Sunday are assigned in order to provide the opportunity to complete the reading of the Gospel prior to coming to worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

As you prepare to read through the Gospel of John, I invite you to consider ways to be intentional about completing the readings. Start by getting out the Bible you plan to use for your readings and setting it out next to a pencil and paper. Depending on how quickly you read most readings will take you less than fifteen minutes each day. The pencil and paper are to make notes in the Bible and write down questions and verses you want to remember. In fifteen minutes a day you will have read through the entire Gospel of John in Lent this year. And if you want to share your favorite verses or questions, please join people to discuss the readings on Sunday mornings between services, on Tuesday Night at St. John's, or Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Faithfully,
Pastor Travis E. Kern

DAY 1, MARCH 5 *John 1:1-28*
Notice the way the Gospel of John opens with the memorable phrase, “In the beginning...”, like the book of Genesis does and not a birth story about Jesus. What might the writer hope to tell us about God by opening the Gospel this way?

DAY 2, MARCH 6 *John 1:29-51*
“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathaniel’s questions is refreshing in its directness. Where are the neighborhoods and communities from which you would be surprised to find God? Where are the neighborhoods and communities you expect to find God present?

DAY 3, MARCH 7 *John 2:1-12*
The Wedding at Cana is Jesus’ first miracle. Turning the water into wine is the first of seven signs in the Gospel of John. What does this sign tell us about God?

DAY 4, MARCH 8 *John 2:13-25*
Jesus dramatically cleanses the temple. What does this passage say to congregations and communities of faith?

DAY 5, MARCH 9 *John 3:1-21*
What do you think it means to be born from above?

DAY 6, MARCH 10 *John 3:22-36*
“He must increase, but I must decrease”. What needs to decrease in our lives in order for God to have a greater presence?

DAY 7, MARCH 11 *John 4:1-42*
What most catches your attention in this scene? Throughout the scene the Samaritan woman grows in her understanding of Jesus. Who has helped you grow in your understanding of Jesus?

DAY 8, MARCH 12 *John 4:43–5:18*
What do these stories of healing reveal about God?

DAY 9, MARCH 13 *John 5:10-47*
Where does this passage challenge your faith?

DAY 10, MARCH 14 *John 6:1-21*
Consider the role food has played in shaping your faith this day.

DAY 11, MARCH 15 *John 6:22-59*
What does Jesus as the bread of life mean to you? How does this connect to your understanding of Communion?

DAY 12, MARCH 16 *John 6:60–7:9*
“Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” In worship we sing Peter’s words before the reading of the Gospel for each week. Based on your reading of the Gospel of John so far, why may this particular portion of scripture be used in worship?

DAY 13, MARCH 17 *John 7:10-36*
The Pharisees and Chief priest send temple police to go and try to arrest Jesus. Based on your reading, why do some people want to arrest Jesus?

DAY 14, MARCH 18 *John 7:37-52*
Some say Jesus is a prophet. Others say Jesus is the Messiah. Who do you say Jesus is?

DAY 15, MARCH 19 *John 8:1-30*
How has Jesus been a light in your life? Where have you witnessed God bringing light into the world?

DAY 16, MARCH 20 *John 8:31-59*
Jesus says the truth will make you free. What does the freedom Jesus speak of look like?

DAY 17, MARCH 21 *John 9:1-41*
In ancient times sickness and disease were associated with a person who sinned or whose parents had sinned. What does this section say to us about sin and disease?

DAY 18, MARCH 22 *John 10:1-42*
If you Google “Jesus and the Good Shepherd” you will find plenty of images. How do you picture Jesus?

DAY 19, MARCH 23 *John 11:1-27*
Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life”. How might Martha understand this prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection at the end of the Gospel?

DAY 20, MARCH 24 *John 11:28-57*
Plans are made to arrest Jesus in this section. Take note of who is involved in planning for Jesus’ arrest. What questions does this section raise for you?

DAY 21, MARCH 25 *John 12:1-19*
Jesus enters Jerusalem to waving palm branches and shouts of Hosanna.

DAY 22, MARCH 26 *John 12:20-50*
Jesus comes to save the world, not judge the world. What are some ways as the body of Christ, the Church, participates in saving the world?

DAY 23, MARCH 27 *John 13:1-20*
Would you let Jesus wash your feet? Would you be willing to wash someone else's feet to carry out Jesus' instruction? Why or why not?

DAY 24, MARCH 28 *John 13:21-38*
The new commandment is to love one another. How have you been loved in the past week? Where can you go ahead and share God's love with someone this week?

DAY 24, MARCH 29 *John 14:1-14*
This section is often read at funerals and memorial services. Why do you think it would be chosen for a funeral? What Bible passages do you want read at your funeral?

DAY 26, MARCH 30 *John 14:15-31*
God's peace is given to us. When have you experienced God's people in your life?

DAY 27, MARCH 31 *John 15:1-17*
In what ways does the image of the vine and branches help you understand your connectedness to God and God's people?

DAY 28, APRIL 1 *John 15:18-16:22*
What does it mean for you to give witness or testimony of your faith?

DAY 29, APRIL 2 *John 16:23-33*
Jesus says he will see us again. What does this statement mean to you?

DAY 30, APRIL 3 *John 17:1-26*
Jesus prays for his disciples. Jesus is praying for you. Do you ever consider Jesus praying to the Father for you? How might this inform your own practice of prayer?

DAY 31, APRIL 4 *John 18:1-14*
This section begins the sequence of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Each reading moves us closer to Jesus' death and resurrection. As you read pay attention to what is included here and note what is not included. The four Gospel's contain similar versions of events without all the details being exactly the same.

DAY 32, APRIL 5 *John 18:15-38*
What is truth? Who is Jesus?

DAY 33, APRIL 6 *John 18:39-19:16*
Jesus is handed over to be crucified. Jesus dies on the first day of Passover in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In John, Jesus dies on the day of Preparation for Passover, at the same time the sacrificial lambs for the Passover meal are slaughtered.

DAY 34, APRIL 7 *John 19:17-30*
It is finished.

DAY 35, APRIL 8 *John 19:31-42*
Jesus' body is taken and prepared for burial.

DAY 36, APRIL 9 *John 20:1-18*
Jesus is Risen. I have seen the Lord. Imagine you encountered the risen Jesus, who is the first person you would run and tell?

DAY 37, APRIL 10 *John 20:19-31*
Jesus appears and Thomas is not present. What would be the difference between doubt and not believing?

DAY 38, APRIL 11 *John 21:1-14*
Jesus appears to the disciples after they return to fishing. Where does Jesus show up in your day to day living?

DAY 39, APRIL 12 *John 21:15-19*
Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep. Jesus speaks these words to Peter who denied him three times. Since God is willing to use Peter who denies Jesus, how might God's work be carried out using your hands?

DAY 40, APRIL 13 *John 21:20-25*
Who do you say is the beloved disciple ("the disciple whom Jesus loved") and supposed author of the Gospel of John?

