

An aerial photograph of a large caravan of camels moving across a vast, arid desert landscape. The camels are silhouetted against the light-colored sand, and their shadows are cast long and dark on the ground. The text 'Northminster Daily Devotions' is overlaid in white on the upper right portion of the image.

**Northminster  
Daily Devotions**

**September 1-30, 2008**  
**Vol. 35** **No. 9**

## ***Northminster Devotionals***

May these devotionals be a blessing to you as we are guided through the daily bible readings from *The One Year Bible*.

This resource has come to you because people from NPC have offered their gifts, to be a blessing to the entire Northminster community, to Tucson and beyond. Don't forget... this entire resource is on our website at [www.godmorning.com](http://www.godmorning.com). So tell your friends!

If you would like to use your God-given talent to become a part of the devotional writing team, call the church at 520-327-7121 and talk to Publications Editor, Jim Peck. This is a very flexible ministry and can be done from anywhere!

*The next issue of the Northminster Daily Devotions will be available on Sunday, September 28, 2008.*

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Job 40:1—42:17

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Psalms 45:1-17

Proverbs 22:14

# What's New?

by Andy Ross

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! -2 Corinthians 5:17*

Three amazing highlights in my life, which I treasure: Holding each of my children in my arms, right after they were born. I still get goose-bumps, because when you look into your newborn's face, all wrinkly and gooey staring back at you, you immediately sense the whole miracle-wonder-adventure-gift of what God can do in our lives! I have to say the births of my children were absolutely the best "What's new?" answers I could ever give anyone.

Equally wonderful though, is the transformation that comes when you place yourself in the arms of God—and allow our heavenly Father to hold you—and change you through his Son, Jesus, the Christ. It's a second birth. When you say "Yes" to Jesus, you begin to be born again, and start living a new life. You become, as Paul points out here, a "new creation."

It's a wonder that Job, through all of his pain, at last found the relief of resting in the mighty, sovereign arms of God. Job found his new life and restoration through God and God alone. In Jesus we have been given someone who suffered for us, so that we might find a new life through him.

Today I want to encourage you to place your trust in Jesus—allow him to re-make you into the woman or man he wants you to be. And if someone asks you, "What's new?" tell them about your faith in God, and how it's making everything new!

**Youth:** What is a new thing that's going on in your life? How do you see God doing new things in you?

**Adults:** What are some "out with the old" and "in with the new" items that you need to place in God's arms today?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, come into our hearts today, and keep making us over in you—come and make us your new creations. Amen.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:1—3:22

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Psalm 46:1-11

Proverbs 22:15

# ***Election Year Stillness***

by Jennifer Monroe

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts... Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. -Psalm 46:6, 10*

There's nothing like a presidential election year, is there? As I write this devotional, the two major political parties have not yet met for their national conventions to formally nominate their candidates for president, but the nation already knows who the major players in the game will be. Anyone who has been paying any attention to the news for the last two years has been inundated with campaign reports, poll results, and pundits' predictions. Now in September, the country is still a long two months away from the general election. Some of us may find it easy to get caught up in political fervor, enthusiastic about our preferred candidate's possibilities and full of dire prophesies about what will happen if "the other guy" wins. Others may feel a sense of ambivalence or even skepticism about the political process in general, unsure of whom to vote for and distrustful of most politicians and their promises.

Wherever you find yourself on that spectrum, it is always encouraging to remember one simple fact: God is ultimately in control. Not only is he in charge of your personal life, both of the storms that threaten your safety and the gifts that come your way, but he is also the Lord of kingdoms, nations, and ultimately the entire earth. The Psalmist celebrates this fact and the power God has to destroy and create, according to his will and purpose. In Psalm 46, we are reminded that he can both cause desolation and make wars to cease. Our job, in the midst of the tumult and chaos, is to simply be still, and remember that he is God, the one who is exalted among the nations and in the whole earth. Whatever happens, no president, king, prime minister, dictator, military leader, or other world power can possibly usurp his throne.

**Youth:** What does it mean for your life today that God is in charge of the whole world?

**Adults:** Does the reminder that God is in charge change your feelings about political elections? Why or why not?

**Prayer:** Almighty God, in the midst of turbulent times, remind us to be still and remember that you are Lord. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 4:1—6:12

2 Corinthians 6:14—7:7

Psalms 47:1-9

Proverbs 22:16

# A Stolen Word

by Dick Leon

*Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth! -Psalm 47:1-2*

We were taking care of our grandchildren recently and we spent part of the day working in their yard. I helped them clip some old fronds from a fern bush and the 10 year old said: “Awesome, Bumpa!”

Later in the day we all went out for some ice cream cones and as we sat down to consume these great tasty delights I heard it again: “Awesome!”

Do you ever feel like you have been robbed of good words? I do, especially with the word in this text that describes God as “awesome.” Our culture uses this rich word for everything from fern fronds to ice cream cones... and so much more.

The Bible reserves this word for God. The root of the word points to something that brings feelings of wonder, reverence and even a healthy fear. The line in Proverbs that expresses this same lofty view of God’s being runs like this: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!” That is closer to the sense of awe that God inspires in us.

I mourn the misuse of this rich word in our modern world. It feels like something precious has been stolen from me when this word is used for so many frivolous things in life. God alone is awesome... can anything else fit that word?

**Youth:** How many times have you heard (or used) “awesome” in this past week? Can you think of other ways to show appreciation for nice things so that you can reserve “awesome” for God alone?

**Adults:** Can you think of ways we have trivialized God by misuse of words like “awesome?”

**Prayer:** Mighty God, remind us all over and over again that you alone deserve our praise and adoration and even our fear because you alone are truly “awesome”; in Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 7:1—9:18

2 Corinthians 6:14—7:7

Psalm 48:1-14

Proverbs 22:17-19

# *Have You Tried Meditation?*

by Frank Shallenberger

*Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. -Psalm 48:9*

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "loving kindness" as "tender and benevolent affection".

Our first impression of Northminster Presbyterian Church was the reverence in church on Sunday mornings. It was obvious that the members present came to communicate with God. The organ played background music which was not intrusive and enabled us to open our minds and hearts to God in a very special way. There is something entirely different about relating to God in the quiet of your own home and in the sanctuary of God's house where others are also doing the same thing. Meditation is reflecting on and focusing one's thoughts on an attribute of God himself.

My father was one of the greatest men I ever knew. He was faithful to his Lord, faithful to his wife and his family, a hard worker who never spared himself. He was always ready to help others, loved his church and God. And yet I realize that Our Heavenly Father, God himself, is more caring, loving and giving than my earthly father. Having known "benevolent affection" as a child I don't hesitate to place myself totally in the Lord's hands; I share my every thought, every need, every concern with him. I hand my burdens over entirely to him.

I love sitting reverentially in church on Sunday morning, opening my heart to God with every concern and feeling that I have and then letting him speak back to me. That way I can establish a relationship which is enriched by the music, prayers and messages of the service itself. Worship becomes an exciting and emotional experience.

**Youth:** Are you bored by the music and the prayers or do you pay as much attention to the Lord on Sunday mornings as you do to your parents when speaking with them?

**Adults:** Is church a social gathering for you and your friends or is it a time for you to get to know God better?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us to take advantage of the ambience of your house and concentrate on your benevolence and your love. Let Sunday mornings be an enriching experience to carry us through the ensuing week. In Jesus's name. Amen.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 10:1—12:14

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Psalms 49:1-20

Proverbs 22:20-21

# *In The Presence Of God*

by John McKee

There is a realm in the sky  
We'll go to by and by  
At the completion of our earthly story.

Sitting upon his White Throne  
Ruling there all alone  
We'll see Jesus in all of his Glory.

He rules with power and might  
In his robes shining bright  
The epitome of justice and love.

As the Angels all sing  
Praises unto this King  
He'll judge those below and above.

The "Book of Life" shall contain  
The names of all who remain  
After he culls the goats from his sheep.

The sheep with Jesus shall dwell  
But goats he'll cast into hell  
Gnashing their teeth as they weep.

This is the future for sinners  
Who chose not to be winners  
By refusing to accept him as Savior.

For only Christ can forgive  
The sinful lives we all live  
He absolves us of evil behavior.

His command to you and to me  
Is to help others see  
That he alone is the key to salvation.

This means we'd best realize  
We must evangelize  
To others in spiritual desperation.

For just as quick as a wink  
Sooner than we might think  
We'll go home to meet with our King.

At Final Judgment we'll learn  
If we are saved or shall burn  
Accepting Jesus Christ means everything.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 Scripture Readings

Song of Solomon 1:1—4:16

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Psalms 50:1-23

Proverbs 22:22-23

# ***Whom Will You Call In Troubled Times?***

by Judy Williams

*God says, "... call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." -Psalm 50:15*

The psalm writer was aware then, as we are today, that there will be days of trouble. We know that there is no guarantee that life will be a bed of roses for any of us. Even roses have thorns!

But God assures us that his care and protection are always near and that our devotion to him honors him. One purpose of our lives is to praise God, and he expects us to honor him.

As our country nears Election Day we hear constant promises and ideas that one person or another believes will solve all our problems. God is our only true problem-solver. We do well if we honor him and believe his promises.

Verse 6 of today's Psalm says: "And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is Judge." While others are elected or appointed to lead us here on earth, we must be constantly mindful that God is our true leader, that Jesus will judge the "quick and the dead" and that the Holy Spirit is always beside us to counsel us.

We will call on God in our troubles and he will deliver us. God is faithful.

**Youth:** When you feel troubled, do you think to ask God to help you? When a friend is in trouble, can you pray with him or her?

**Adults:** Do you remember that God is always listening and knows what you are going through? When troubles come do you call upon him to help you? And do you praise him for helping you?

**Prayer:** God, we know you are an ever-present help in times of trouble. Hear us as we come to you with our problems and know that we honor you for loving us so much. Amen.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Song of Solomon 5:1—8:14

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Psalms 51:1-19

Proverbs 22:24-25

# *The Voice Of God*

by John McKee

John the Baptist wore garments  
Of camel's hair and leather  
As he preached in the wilderness.

He was a man of God  
Who baptized every sinner  
Who came to him their sins to confess.

Jesus went to be baptized  
To "Fulfill all righteousness..."  
When his ministry was to begin.

It was in the River Jordan  
Where John baptized Jesus  
Though he was blameless and innocent of sin

John submerged him in the river  
And when he brought him up  
The Heavens were opened up wide.

To shine the white light of GOD  
Upon his Blessed Son  
As John stood in awe at his side.

"This is my Beloved Son,  
"With whom I am well pleased."  
Boomed God's voice from the Heavens above.

And the Lord Jesus was filled  
By the Spirit of God  
Who descended upon him like a dove.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 1:1—2:22

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Psalms 52:1-9

Proverbs 22:26-27

# ***Enough Already!***

by Scott Coverdale

*“The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?” says the Lord... Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. -Isaiah 1:11a,17*

In this passage, God is saying that he is sick and tired of sacrifices, of bloody birds and goats, tired of having smoke in his eyes from all the burning wood, overcooked meat and hippy incense. What’s up with that? Isn’t God the one who directed Moses what to kill and what to burn and what to wave and sprinkle and smear? Weren’t the people just following instructions?

I think the point is that there are ways of doing things and ways not to do them. Even Jesus, when he healed a leper in Luke, told the man to go and make the sacrifices that Moses had commanded. I don’t think that Isaiah is telling us that the sacrifices were bad or inappropriate or outdated. The problem is that the sacrifices were not accompanied by real contrition or humility or love of God. The proof is that the people were not living lives of compassion, justice or charity. The conclusion is obvious and inescapable: religion without compassion is empty ritual, and not just unimpressive to God, but disgusting. True faith will always be apparent in the way that we deal with the vulnerable people among us. This is a sobering challenge. Frankly, it is easier to “do religion” than to give ourselves over to seeking justice and caring for the defenseless. Religion can be done in an hour on Sunday morning, along with writing an affordable check and learning some vocabulary.

Faith that pleases God, on the other hand, fundamentally changes the way that we relate to our community. The required sacrifice cannot be cut out of our flock or trimmed out of our budget with the flourish of a pen. What God really wants from us is that we learn to love him with our whole hearts and souls and mind, and that we love our neighbor as ourselves. “Do this,” Jesus said, “and you will live.”

**Youth:** Why did God tell Isaiah that he was tired of sacrifices? What did he want from them instead?

**Adults:** What is the difference between faithful practice and empty ritual? Is there anything in your life that should be jettisoned as useless religion and replaced with something else?

**Prayer:** Please guide us, Lord God, as we navigate through our lives, wanting to live rightly in your sight. Amen.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 3:1—5:30

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Psalms 53:1-6

Proverbs 22:28-29

# ***Keep Focused On God's Word***

by Karen Foss

*I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.*

-2 Corinthians 11:2-4

In this letter, Paul was speaking to the young Corinthian church because he knew they were in danger from false teachers. These false teachers were questioning Paul's authority as a true apostle. At that time there was a lot of immorality and idol worshipping going on and the young church was weak. He wanted to make sure they stayed focused on the teachings of Jesus Christ and no one else.

Today we hear many preachers on television and the radio. They all seem to have a good message and we generally feel better after listening to them. But, how can we be sure that what they're preaching is right? The best way is to go the manual—The Bible. In it, we have the very words that Jesus spoke to his followers. It doesn't get any more authentic than that. With all the distractions in our lives today, it's hard to keep focused on what is really important, but the Bible will set us straight.

**Youth:** In your studies at school, you probably use a dictionary, a thesaurus and other tools to understand certain concepts. When you hear a sermon and don't quite understand some of the passages, do you go to the Bible for reference?

**Adults:** Do you rely on the Bible as a guide for everyday living? There is more wisdom in it than any self-help manual you will every read.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I pray that you will keep me centered in your word, that you will guide me and lead me in the path you have set for me. Amen.

## ***Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb***

by Jerry Smith

*... I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted... Above him were seraphs, each with six wings... And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."... "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."... Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for..."*

*-Isaiah 6:1-6*

What a beautiful book Isaiah wrote, full of prophecies about the coming Messiah. One of my favorites is, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). And of course Jesus started his ministry by reading from Isaiah 61:1-2, The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, etc.

But, to get back to the original text, Isaiah had every right to be awed in the presence of the Lord as I'm sure we would be. However, there the similarity should stop, for if we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, he has atoned for our sins and to deny that is to deny the efficacy of Christ's death on the cross. For we are told in Hebrews 10:19-22a "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith."

**Youth:** Do you realize the avenues your faith in Christ has opened for you?

**Adults:** You, like the Chief Priests of Biblical times, can walk into the Holy of Holies with out a rope around your waist. Have you tried it?

**Prayer:** Jesus, what can we say but a heart felt thank you. Amen.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 8:1—9:21

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Psalms 55:1-23

Proverbs 23:4-5

# *The Cross Among The Rubble*

by Anne Price

*The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone: the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars. -Isaiah 9:10*

There could not have been a more appropriate verse to reflect upon on this date. I can still recall the shock and sadness that our country could be attacked again after 60 years. The majority of our citizens do not remember the nations reaction to the bombing of our ships at Pearl Harbor.

On December 7, 1941, I was 3 years old and probably playing with my dog after attending church with my grandmother. My grandfather was back in the Army in San Francisco as a part of our building up the armed forces for the war in Europe. Now 60 years later, I was getting ready to go to work out at Pima College when the news flash appeared on the television. I went on in a daze to the gym. I watched in horror while numbly running on the treadmill. I felt totally helpless and just prayed confused words. We saw faces of thousands of our fellow citizens covered with gray smoke and ashes.

What we may not have seen were the photographs of crosses found in the rubble. Exhausted and overwhelmed rescue workers flocked to the site to pray and meditate for the strength to go on. We will never forget the firefighters and police departments from around the country who did all that they could to save lives. Bravery was evidenced everywhere.

The Prophet Isaiah writes of hope out of disaster. Each of us in our own personal lives have experienced suffering. The reminder of the Cross can carry us onward to rebuild our lives and that of our country, the United States of America.

**Youth:** How do you show love of our country in prayer?

**Adults:** How can we pray for our leaders and know that God is in charge of the results of any election?

**Prayer:** Thank you Father for blessing our country. By following you we know that we will continue to be the finest nation on the earth. Amen.

## *Is The Bible Accurate?*

by Frank Shallenberger

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.*

-Isaiah 11:1-3

Mary and Joseph had to go to the city of Bethlehem to register for the census since they were of the line of David. So why do you think Isaiah wrote “a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse?” No mention of David was made although David was the beginning of the royal line of the house of David. By the time Jesus was born the line of David had sunk back to the level of a peasant. Isaiah prophesied quite accurately. Jesus had a humble beginning, born in the city of David which was also the city of Jesse.

Most of us have not given it a great deal of thought but I promise you almost every child has. In 3½ months we will celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Parents, Sunday school teachers and pastors will tell the centuries-old story of the Magi, the Star of Bethlehem and the story of “No room at the inn.”

Occasionally we are inclined to wonder about the accuracy of biblical stories. Isaiah prophesied the birth of Jesus Christ over 700 years prior. This, of course, is not the only prophecy of Jesus birth but it is just one example of prophetic accuracy to be found in the Word of God. What a blessing it is for us to know that everything we read in the Bible is verifiable by other passages. We can read the Bible from beginning to end and rely on the accuracy and truth of every word. The Bible is the infallible word of God.

**Youth:** Do you realize there is a difference between your textbooks in school and God's Holy Word? What is that difference?

**Adults:** Have you ever wondered how accurate is the Bible? When someone writes about something to happen over 700 years later and that proves to be true does that not verify the infallible word in the book?

**Prayer:** Almighty God, father of us all, divine author through inspiration of the Bible, help us to look upon your word as the blessing it truly is. In Jesus's name. Amen.

## *The Wonder Of God*

by John McKee

God's wonder is evident  
Throughout his creation  
Regardless of where you're to go.

To murky depths of the oceans  
The hot sands of the deserts,  
Or to Kilimanjaro's packed snow.

His wonder abounds  
In life forms he's created  
Such as the making of man from dust,

And then creating woman  
Out of the rib of the man  
Knowing a mate for him was a must.

All things are unique  
Within God's creation  
There are no two snowflakes the same

We're in awe of his wonder  
At an offspring's resemblance  
To a parent from which he or she came.

To contemplate his universe  
With it's countless galaxies  
Is quite enough to stagger one's mind.

But what's even harder to fathom  
Although we're mired in sin  
Is his abiding love for mankind.

A love that's so great  
That he gave up his Son  
To die on a cross in our place.

A love that's so great  
All our sins are forgiven  
Through his Son's Redeeming Grace.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 15:1—18:7

Galatians 1:1-24

Psalms 58:1-11

Proverbs 23:12

***The Wisdom Of God***

by John McKee

God chose to use  
The weak of the world  
To confound those who are strong.

Many weak, blind, or lame  
Over the years served him ably  
Through their sermons, their writings or song.

When Jesus chose his Disciples  
He picked twelve average men  
Most had never attended a school.

Christ foreknew eleven of them  
Would spread the Gospel world-wide  
But Judas was to be Satan's tool.

God chose what is lowly  
And despised in the world  
Even the things that are not

So that no human being  
Might boast in God's presence  
He brings things that are... to naught.

For God is the source  
Of our life in Christ Jesus  
Within whom is everything good

He's our wisdom, and righteousness  
Sanctification and redemption  
Paul makes these points understood.

God chose to use  
The foolish things of the world  
To heap shame upon those who are wise.

That the foolishness of God  
Is wiser than all of mankind  
Is a truth intellectuals despise.

The agnostics and atheists  
Who ridicule Christian faith  
Do so out of arrogant pride.

They feel smugly superior  
Within their ivory towers  
But spiritually are quite dead inside.

More to be pitied than censured  
Are these misguided skeptics  
Perhaps as they face death alone

Shall have a chance to repent  
And ask God to forgive them,  
But many won't have time to atone.

## ***Attempts To Explain The Mystery***

by Dick Leon

*So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. -Galatians 2:16b*

How would you describe the relationship between a Holy, Transcendent, Awesome, Creator God and feeble, flawed, flakey and funny human beings? Is there any metaphor that helps us understand how this mysterious relationship works?

The Bible uses several metaphors in order to give us different angles on the relationship between the Creator and his Creatures.

- There is an economic metaphor... we have been sold into slavery to sin and need to be bought back, so God pays the price to *redeem* us.
- There is a social metaphor... we have rebelled against God and need to be *reconciled* to him.
- Today's text uses a legal metaphor... we are guilty before the Judge and we cannot *justify* ourselves, but Christ does it for us and our faith in him accomplishes what we could never accomplish on our own!

The mystery of how we, who are far off from God, can possibly be brought near to him needs as many metaphors as possible so we can come to an understanding of our **plight** (*being separated from God*) and God's grand **rescue** (*being redeemed, reconciled, justified to God*)!

In so many ways, this whole matter is more than our little minds can fathom. It is a fundamental mystery of life. But, thank God, God has done for us what we could never do for ourselves... and God's Word has given us a variety of metaphors so we can get a glimpse of the incredible work that Christ has accomplished on the cross for us!

**Youth:** How do you think you can relate to our Creator God?

**Adults:** Which metaphor makes the most sense to you?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, you have done it all for us... redeemed us from the pit of slavery to sin; reconciled us when we were alienated to you by our rebellion, justified us by forgiving our guilt before you. Thank you, Lord, thank you! Amen.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 22:1—24:23

Galatians 2:17—3:9

Psalms 60:1-12

Proverbs 23:15-16

# *Living By Faith*

by Marie Ruiz

*Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. -Galatians 3:6-9*

I am reminded of myself in this passage in Galatians. I sometimes like to hold on to the past forgetting that it is in the “past.” I’m not bound to traditions or beliefs or rituals that I might have observed/done back then because by faith, Christ has made me a new creature. The old has passed away and the new is come. The same thing was true of the Galatians; they wanted to hold on to the Jewish traditions and impose those on the Gentile Christians as well.

Paul has quite a time trying to explain to these New Testament Christians that they are renewed by faith in Christ Jesus, not by works that can be measured according to laws. There is no faith required to keep laws but there is faith required for becoming righteous through the blood of Christ that was shed once and for all who have faith to believe. This is the redeeming message of the New Testament and it is a relief to us as Gentiles to know that we are not bound by rules or laws for salvation. We are granted salvation, forgiveness and eternal life when we have faith in God and invite him to live within us so that we can be washed clean of our sin.

Abraham could never have lived long enough to see the promises of God become a reality down through the generations. We can learn that his faith is a model for us today to live by faith and experience God’s forgiveness. Faith is the key that unlocks the door to salvation and forgiveness.

**Youth:** Is it hard for you to have faith and believe in something you cannot see? Consider the wind: you have never seen it, but you feel its effects every day. Maybe that will help you when you think about God?

**Adults:** Are you living by faith and trusting in God’s plan for your life? Or do we need a Paul to come and straighten us out?

**Prayer:** Thank you, Lord, for reminding us of Abraham who by faith believed and was credited as righteous before you. We want to be righteous before you also. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 25:1—28:13

Galatians 3:10-22

Psalms 61:1-8

Proverbs 23:17-18

# ***Our Eternal Rock***

by Jennifer Monroe

*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.*

*-Isaiah 26:3-4*

Have you ever gone rock climbing? I'm not terribly good at it, but it's one sport that I really enjoy, both in the gym and in the great out-of-doors. I find it exhilarating to pick my way up the side of a sheer rock face, looking for hand and footholds, trying to piece together the puzzle that will be my route to the top of the wall. Rock climbing is an activity that involves a lot of trust. You have to trust in your equipment, that it's of good quality and won't break and that you've put on your harness properly and knotted the rope the right way. You have to trust your belay, the person on the ground who is holding the rope that's keeping you from falling and also has the perspective to shout directions and encouragement. And finally, you have to trust the rock itself, that the good, solid, hand and footholds you find will help you inch your way to the top.

What I've discovered is that if I can really trust in all of these things, any fear of heights or failure or falling simply melts away and is replaced by peace. Even dangling from a rope high off the ground, I can feel a sense of inner calm because I know that ultimately, my own safety and success are not solely in my hands—and that's a good thing! Isaiah reminds the people of Israel that perfect peace comes not from being perfect, making sure that all your ducks are in a row, or even from being free from conflict or problems, but in trusting in something bigger than yourself, the Lord. If you find yourself feeling stressed, upset or fearful, perhaps you should stop and ask: where am I placing my trust? In myself? Or in God? Remember that he is the Rock eternal!

**Youth:** What's another example of an activity or sport that requires trust? Do you enjoy it?

**Adults:** Think about your life right now: Are you at peace or not? Where are you placing your trust?

**Prayer:** O Lord our Rock, we thank and praise you that you are trustworthy, solid, and sure. Remind us of that in the midst of unpeaceful times. Amen.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 28:14—30:11

Galatians 3:23—4:31

Psalms 62:1-12

Proverbs 23:19-21

# ***God Is Strong And Loving***

by Judy Williams

*One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O God are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done. -Psalm 62:11-12*

David knew God and God knew David. He was chosen by God to do great things, from the time he defeated Goliath, through his tribulations with King Saul, during his flight in the wilderness until he himself gained the throne.

Through all his life David knew God's strength and felt God's loving forgiveness.

In my life I, too, have known God's sustaining strength and have experienced many situations that proved God's love, his forgiveness, and his provision for me and my family.

I believe that David was truly able to hear God's voice. I have yet to hear God speak, but through the Bible I sense his voice of direction and reassurance.

I, too, know that God will reward me and each of us according to the lives we live while we are here on Earth.

**Youth:** As you begin the new school year do you remember that God's strength and love are with you every day? Do you remember to seek his guidance in every new situation?

**Adults:** Have you thanked God today for all the ways his strength and love sustain you in your daily life? And do you ask for his guidance as you plan each day's activities?

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, remind me that relying on my own strength is futile but that to trust you for guidance will give me the strength to do your will each moment of the day. Thank you for all the loving ways in which you bless me. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

## ***How Do You Live?***

by Frank Shallenberger

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... -Galatians 5:16,22-23a*

Paul tells us Christians that there is a choice in life for us. We can continue on as we did before, yielding to a life of sinfulness or we can change and live a life guided by the Holy Spirit within us. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ through grace which is an undeserved gift of God. Grace supplies us with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and fills us up with the Spirit whenever we need him so that we might live a better life than we have been.

We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. We should live our lives to please Jesus Christ—not to please others, not to please the church, but only to please him. Our liberty is in Jesus Christ. He wants to live his life through us.

We cannot exercise a gift without doing it by the fruit of the Spirit. No matter what we do, it must first be affected by love. Please note that Paul writes the fruit “is,” singular, “love.” All of the other fruits of the Spirit depend upon “love.” The question is, are we producing any fruit in our lives?

**Youth:** Please remember that the word “love” is a Christian word meaning caring for, respecting the rights of another person, it doesn’t mean “liking” them. Do you love all of your classmates although you might not like all of your classmates?

**Adults:** Do you feel the fruits of the Spirit in your life? Are you exercising the gifts God gives you?

**Prayer:** Help us to remember to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us so that we might make the proper choices in our lives, avoiding sin and using the gifts you have given us in matters that will be pleasing to you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 33:10—36:22

Galatians 5:13-26

Psalm 64:1-10

Proverbs 23:23

# ***Fruits Of The Spirit***

by John Charles Cheek

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

*-Galatians 5:22-23*

One of the great things about having been a member of the Northminster family for over thirty years has been the chance to get to know some of the wonderful saints who have been here during that time. Both men and women have demonstrated these gifts of the Spirit, and in so doing have taught me how to live more and more as Jesus has called me to.

I remember a woman who, as far as I know, never spoke an unkind word either to or about anyone else. I remember a man who, in a gracious and kind conversation, told me it was a mistake for me to be in a police career, as God had created me for ordained ministry. I remember so many who left me saying to myself, "I wish I could be more like her/him."

My life has been blessed by these wonderful people, who in turn had been blessed by the Holy Spirit so that their lives showed these beautiful fruits. I'm so thankful to God for each one.

**Youth:** Think of a time someone was really nice to you. How did that make you feel?

**Adults:** What are the times in your life that you have shown one or more of these fruits? What did God do with that?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for your Holy Spirit, and for the gifts he gives us. Please help us to live into those gifts so that your name will be glorified.  
Amen

## ***The Divine Names Of God***

by John McKee

**“I AM WHO I AM”**

**God** said to Moses

When Moses asked him for his name.

**Lord God, Jehovah,  
The Alpha and the Omega**  
All are one and the same.

The names of our **God**  
Are really quite numerous  
And because he's the **Three in One**

He is also known as **The Holy Spirit**  
And **Christ Jesus**  
His **Only Son**.

The divine name of **YHWH**  
Named by his Chosen People  
And pronounced by them as **“Yahweh;”**

Is the **Lord of Hosts** and **King of kings**,  
To whom Jews  
And the Christians both pray.

**The Way, the Word,  
The Light of the World**  
Were additional names that he took.

He's called **the Prince of Peace**,  
**The King of the Jews**  
And **The Savior** in “The Good Book.”

He's **The Lord of lords**.  
He's **the Messiah**,  
**The Lamb of God** and **Most High**.

Also, **the Bread of Life**,  
**The Wonderful Counselor**.  
You can think of more names if you try.

Such as, **Comforter,**  
**Master, The Christ Child,**  
**The Good Shepherd** by whom we're protected.

**The Holy One,**  
**The Father, Teacher, Rabbi.**  
**The Corner Stone** the builders rejected.

As the sacred list of names  
Goes on and on  
Of **the Holy Trinity,**

They serve to remind us  
That the **Sacrificial Lamb**  
Died willingly for you and for me.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 39:1—41:16

Ephesians 1:1-23

Psalms 66:1-10

Proverbs 23:25-28

# ***A Window Into Paul's Heart***

by Dick Leon

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

*-Ephesians 1:17-19*

If you listen to someone's prayer you learn about the deep issues and values of their lives. If you listen to your own prayers you find out what is deeply important in your life. In this way we might say that prayer is a great window into our heart!

When we come across prayers in the Bible we get the same... windows into the hearts of those who are praying. So in Ephesians 1:17, we get a glimpse into Paul's heart and we learn what is most important to him as he prays for the people of the church he started in Ephesus, and as he prays for all "who believe." Look at the things he asks for us:

- A spirit of wisdom and revelation to know God
- To know the hope of God's future for us
- To know the riches of our inheritance in Christ
- To know the immeasurable greatness of his power in us

Think of it. The good news is all of those items Paul prays for are available to us as free gifts from the Lord when we simply put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

**Youth:** What have you been praying for lately?

**Adults:** What ways has this prayer for you been answered over this past year?

**Prayer:** Mighty and Gracious Lord, you offer us so much more than we could imagine even asking for on our own. Soften and shape our hearts so that we will also pray for these four gifts and live in the power of your grace. Amen.

## ***Paz de Cristo***

by Scott Coverdale

*He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one spirit. -Ephesians 2:17-18*

Once I found myself walking on a sweltering hot Sunday afternoon across the seemingly endless sprawl of Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic. I was sick as well as hungry, thirsty and tired, and I was not quite sure that I was going the right direction. Finally, I had to stop under a small tree and sit down to rest. I put my head down on my knees and waited for a wave of nausea to pass. After a couple of minutes I felt a hand on my shoulder and looked up to see a man in a long black robe. “Maybe the Angel of Death,” thought I.

The man was a Franciscan friar, tending a tiny chapel nearby. He led me into the whitewashed room, which had a total of four benches, each six feet long, and a statue of Mary holding baby Jesus. Mary and Jesus were both overdue for painting.

The man indicated that I should sit down on a bench, which I happily did. The walls were thick and the shade was deep and cool after the torrid streets. He brought me a jug of water, a clean glass and half a papaya with bread. I ate and drank and slept in the shelter of the chapel. When I left an hour later, the man bid me farewell. “Paz de Cristo,” he told me. “Peace of Christ.”

In the passage quoted above, Paul is affirming that there is space for gentiles within the Body of Christ. Though I was raised to be suspicious of all things Catholic, the friar who took pity on me that day gave me a new vision of the body of Christ—one that included a lot more people than I had previously imagined. The longer I live, the more I am challenged by people that I meet and by the love of God that I sense, to listen for the peace of Christ from unexpected quarters.

**Youth:** Have you ever been surprised by seeing God’s love from an unexpected direction?

**Adults:** Is there space in your vision of Christ’s body for many people? Is your vision as wide as God’s grace and love?

**Prayer:** Dear God of all, please give us a vision for your wide and peaceful love. Thank you that your love extends to even us, who have been and are sometimes even now, far away. Amen.

## ***The Infinite Love Of God***

by Jerry Smith

*... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. -Ephesians 3:17b-19*

The definition of infinite in the dictionary is: limitless, boundless, endless, vast, immense, and inexhaustible. God himself uses terms like, “For as high as the heavens are from the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (*Psalm 103:11-12*).

His love is definitely some thing that we have to experience. First it's like stepping into a puddle of water on the side walk. Then, since that felt pretty good lets try something a little more bold like a small swimming pool. That's even better so lets try a lake. We will find the lake isn't large enough to hold God's love either.

The next trial is to start out into the ocean. Swim as long as you can and as hard as you can and you will find that no matter what we do we can't out distance God's love. But without jumping in we'll never experience what our loving Father has so graciously offered for our total immersion.

**Youth:** When all else fails can you trust the love of Christ to lift you up?

**Adults:** Have you had the ocean experience? Jump in you'll love the water.

**Prayer** How fortunate we are to have your infinite love. Please give us the boldness to experience it. In Jesus name. Amen.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 45:11—48:11

Ephesians 4:1-16

Psalms 68:19-35

Proverbs 24:3-4

# ***Victory March***

by Anne Price

*Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation; praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel. -Psalm 68:24-26*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I have a confession to make to you. I just love movies. I am a visual person. Tell me a story and I take it to my imagination and make a movie out of it. I can just picture the triumphant march of God's victorious armies worshipping with all of their heart and souls.

Let's re-read this verse putting it into our own imagination as a gathering of our own congregation. Our choir leads the procession singing with their joy filled voices. Following them are our musicians who march as they play like the University of Arizona's marching band. Next, we have our beautiful young ladies shaking their tambourines in their colorful outfits, dancing to the music.

Wow, what a picture! This would be one way to show our passionate love of Jesus Christ, who helps us take control of our own personal enemies. Let us celebrate God's victories in our worship every day, not just on Sundays. The best gifts we can take to God are our lives and our praise.

**Youth:** Have you ever danced happily down the aisles of our church to show the love of Jesus?

**Adults:** How can we add more spirit to our worship as we sing each Sunday with the wonderful choir?

**Prayer:** Thank you Father for reminding us that you lead us into battle and promise that if we follow you we will win the war against Satan. Amen.

## ***Grieve The Holy Spirit—Never!***

by Marie Ruiz

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. -Ephesians 4:30*

This chapter in Ephesians has convicted me on more than one occasion. I sometimes run off at the mouth and do not think before speaking. Bad habit! And most times I truly regret what I've just sputtered forth as it causes an uncomfortable feeling or divide with the one I was speaking. You can't take words back after they've left your mouth. That in itself should make us more cautious about when and what we speak.

But even more important, it grieves the Holy Spirit. Do you know what that means? We sometimes forget that the Holy Spirit is a person, part of the Godhead. He's our link on earth to the Father. When we think about this in context, none of us would want to be responsible for grieving the very God who bought our forgiveness with his Son's precious blood. In effect we are wounding the Holy Spirit and nullifying the presence of the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power within us.

The latter verses in chapter four refer to living as children of light. The light of the world is Jesus and we are his vessels of light. How we shine will reflect kindness and compassion, a forgiving spirit just as Christ forgave us, or we will glow with rage and anger, slander and malice and grieve the Holy Spirit who so desperately came to comfort us and help us.

**Youth:** When friends make you mad or hurt you, do you try to hurt them back with your words? What does Ephesians 4:32 tell us to do?

**Adults:** Seems as though most people today walk around with an attitude, right? We can be instruments of change and surprise others with God's kindness.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, forgive us if we have grieved you and wounded you all over again. It is our desire with the help of the Holy Spirit to guard our speech so that it will be pleasing to you and benefit those who listen. Amen.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 51:1—53:12

Ephesians 5:1-33

Psalm 69:19-36

Proverbs 24:7

# ***Is Your Life Lived As Christ Would Live It?***

by Frank Shallenberger

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. -Ephesians 5:1-2*

“Be imitators of God.” How can you or I, mere mortals, expect to be anything like God himself? The fact is we can never be anything like God but we can live lives that reflect the fruit of the Spirit that dwells within us. The first thing that comes to my mind is forgiveness.

Every night before I lay my head on the pillow, I pray to God to forgive my sins, those I did intentionally, knowingly, and those of “omission.” When I close my eyes I know that God has forgiven me for every failure for that day and all previous days. You and I can also extend forgiveness to those who have offended us.

But forgiveness isn't the only way we can be imitators. We can be servants to others just as Christ himself. We can be teachers as Christ was a teacher, we can make sacrifices for others just as Christ sacrificed himself for us. And above all, we can love our neighbors. Christ was the epitome of love. He died on that horrible cross because he loved us so that you and I might be free and have eternal salvation.

We can also exhibit the joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness which Paul tells us in Galatians 5:22 are fruits of the Holy Spirit which dwells within us once we become Christians. If we make a sincere effort to be true Imitators of Christ, our lives too will be ones of sacrifice and be a fragrant offering to God.

**Youth:** When one of your buddies does something you don't like are you able to forgive him or her or do you wait to get even?

**Adults:** Do you make a sincere effort to love your neighbor?

**Prayer:** Father, it is really hard to be Imitators of Christ and love everyone. Help us to put aside our personal animosities, our pride, and be Christians in every sense of the word. Through Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 54:1—57:14

Ephesians 6:1-24

Psalms 70:1-5

Proverbs 24:8

***The Children Of God***

by John McKee

Take time each day  
To smell the roses,  
And never forget to smile.

Say hello to a stranger  
Do a kind deed for someone  
And walk for them one extra mile.

For each day is a gift  
From a benevolent God,  
That we're given by him to enjoy.

Whether we're aged grandparents  
Or middle-aged parents  
Perhaps still just a young girl or boy.

You see, to him we're *all* children,  
Whom he loves as his own  
Wanting only what's best for each child

God sends his Holy Spirit  
To dwell within hearts  
Of lost sinners who become reconciled.

How do we become reconciled  
With the Lord God you ask?  
Simply repent... and ask him to forgive.

Accept his Son, Jesus Christ,  
As your Lord and Savior  
And change the sinful way you now live.

That's called, 'repentance of sin',  
And it can be hard to do,  
For Satan whispers, "to *sin is all right*".

But, when you make your commitment  
To give your life to Lord Jesus  
Satan cannot prevail in that fight.

Though he will try ever harder  
To tempt you away  
From the path you have chosen to tread

Now the '*Father of Lies*'  
Shall not deceive you again  
For you're one of the '*Children of God*'.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 57:15—59:21

Philippians 1:1-26

Psalms 71:1-24

Proverbs 24:9-10

# ***Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love***

by Ralph Comey

*Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone. For my enemies speak against me; those who wait to kill me conspire together. They say, "God has forsaken him; for no one will rescue him." Be not far from me, O God; come quickly, O my God, to help me. -Psalm 71:10-13*

When considering old age, it is understandable that the psalmist might feel vulnerable and alone and would pray for God's presence. But in a following passage, he becomes more hopeful and wants to praise the Lord more and more. Still, some of David's psalms (*written in circa 1000 BC*) have an inconsistent and troubled quality, and he seems unsure of God's support. The coming of Jesus changed everything.

A few years ago, we went to visit a dear friend of ours who was in hospice care, suffering from a terminal illness. Although weak, she was cheerful and serene. I asked her if she would like us to bring her a Bible. "No thanks", she said. "I don't need one, now." She placed her hand on her heart. "I've got it all here."

The Apostle Paul spent his life learning and teaching about Jesus. In his letter to the Romans, he explains that Jesus offers a unique access to God through obedient faith.

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39).*

**Youth:** Do we feel troubled and alone? At times are we fearful? When we feel this way, do we remember that God is always there to help us?

**Adults:** As the end of life approaches, we often wonder what lies ahead. Do we have doubts? Are we fearful? Do we remember Paul's words?

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Amen.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1—62:5

Philippians 1:27—2:18

Psalms 72:1-20

Proverbs 24:11-12

# *Joy In The Lord*

by Deb Van Scoyk

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life... -Philippians 2:14-16a*

We must again marvel at the teachings of Paul—how clearly relevant his words are today, and how they inspire us to seek God’s counsel as we become ever more sensitive to his direction for our lives, as we strive to live in responsive obedience, and as we come to recognize God’s ever-present energy in our lives.

What an incomparable blessing we possess in the knowledge that, as cherished children of this awesome God, we can go out into the world serving as a breath of fresh air, providing those in a “crooked and depraved generation” with a glimpse of the living God. We, as Christians, have been given the most profound joy—shining “like stars in the universe” in a dark world. We, you and I, offer an alternative that gives eternal life.

Is it any wonder Paul spoke so often of being “full of joy in the Lord?”

**Youth:** Do you tell your friends about Jesus?

**Adults:** What can you do to become a better witness for Jesus?

**Prayer:** Lord, we give you our hearts and ask that you lead us where we might best serve as a witness to your life-changing grace. Show us how we can serve, cheerfully and readily, that our world might be transformed. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

# ***The Grace Of God***

by John McKee

It's by the grace of God  
We receive our life  
And all the good things we hold dear.

It's by the grace of God  
We are protected from evil  
That is constant and ever so near.

It's by the grace of God  
That we are saved from our sins  
Through the sacrifice of his only Son.

It's by the grace of God  
The Holy Spirit was sent  
After Christ's great victory was won.

It's by the grace of God  
He'll not put more upon us  
Than that which he knows we can bear.

It's by the grace of God  
During our suffering and trials  
He takes on our burdens of care.

It's by the grace of God  
He grants us serene peace  
As those all about push and shove.

It's by the grace of God  
We're granted life eternal  
In his Heaven with all those we love.



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