

**ILCW Year-A Lessons for ✠ Ash Wednesday** (40 days before Easter)

**ILCW-A Old Testament = Joel 2:12-19** (same as **Historic** Old Testament)

**ILCW-A Epistle = II Corinthians 5:20-6:10** (same as **Historic** Epistle)

**ILCW-A Gospel** (same as **Historic**, but add verses 1-6)

**Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21** "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ... **16-21** (see inside of bulletin)

**THIS SEASON IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**Lent** is a season of intense preparation for Easter. It is also a time for deep meditation and reflection on the word of God. We reflect on Holy Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Christ. We remember that although baptism happened in time, still our baptism plays a powerful and meaningful role in our everyday lives. As we daily contemplate our sins in the mirror of God's law, we remember the covenant God made to us in baptism: A covenant that He would be faithful in forgiving our sins unto everlasting life.

As we daily return to baptism in repentance and faith, we continue the cycle of the Christian life which will ultimately find its culmination in the final resurrection from the dead. "...do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6)

The Liturgical color for the Lent season is Purple which symbolizes penitence and self-discipline.

During the penitential season of Lent we omit the *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* and the *Alleluias* from the Divine Service. They will return "to use" again on Easter morning.



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA  
Ash Wednesday ✠ (LENT Begins) Prepare A Fast  
March 5<sup>th</sup> , 2014 4:30 pm



From "Illustrations of Gospel Stories" **Jerome Nadal – Matthew 6**  
Concerning **fasting**.

# ✠ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

[www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org](http://www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org)

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.osllakeland.org](http://www.osllakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✠ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✠ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

## March 5, 2014 (40) Ash Wednesday = Prepare a Fast

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** Printed here and in **black** (ELH) Hymnary **p.120**

Service		
Opening Hymn	287 (6v)	Jesus, I Will Pomder Now
Hymn of the Day	302 (4v)	The Tree of Life
Evening Hymn	561 (8v)	Sing 1-2,7-8 Abide With Me, Fast Falls

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Quinquagesima Sunday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Exodus14:1-31	Exo. 15:1-21	Exo.15:22-16:36	Exo. 17:1-16	Exo. 19:1-25	Exo.20:1-23
Mark 10:1-31	Mark 10:32-52	Mark 11:1-33	Mark12:13-44	Luke 4:14-44	Luke 5:12-39

### PROPERs for ASH WEDNESDAY (START OF LENT) MAR 5

**INTROIT:** I will cry to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me. Yes, in the shadow of Your wings I make my refuge, until these calamities are past. Be merciful to Me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul trusts in You. ...from **Psalms 57**

**COLLECT:** Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, who worthily lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever,  
**C: J A - -men.**

**GRADUAL:** Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul trusts in You. He will send from heaven and save me from the accusation of him who would swallow me up. ...from **Psalms 103**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on inside back page 6 of the bulletin→)

OT **Joel 2:12-19** The Lord calls His people to true repentance.  
Ep. **II Corinthians 5:20-6:10** Do not receive God's Grace in vain.  
Go. **Matthew 6:16-21** Do the Father's Will for the right reasons.

**2014-LENT MIDWEEK SERMONS THEME: FROM GARDEN TO GLORY!**

TONIGHT (ASH WEDNESDAY, SERMON 1): **"GARDEN ...OF PROMISE!"**

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## Historic Lessons for Ash ✠ Wednesday (40 days pre-Easter)

### Old Testament

**Joel 2:12-19 NIV** 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. 14 Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing – grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. 16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. 17 Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare Your people, O LORD. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' 18 Then the LORD will be jealous for His land and take pity on His people. 19 The LORD will reply to them: 'I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

### Epistle

**II Corinthians 5:20-6:10** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 6:1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For He says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the Day of Salvation. 3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

### Gospel

**Matthew 6:16-21** "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, Who is unseen; and your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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**The VERSICLE** P: ♪ *Let my prayers rise before you as incense:*

**C:** ♪ **And the lifting up of my hands-- As the ev'ning sacrifice.**

**The NUNC DIMITTIS** ("Lord, let us Depart in Peace"...music on page 124)

**C:** ♪ 1. Lord, now You let Your servant ... .. de-part in peace:  
Accord-... ..-ing to You Word.

2. For mine eyes have seen... .. Your Sal-va-tion;  
Which You have prepared before the face... of all peo-ple.

3. A-- Light to light- ... ..-en the Gen-tiles:  
And the glory of Your... .. peo-ple Isra-el.

4. Glory be to the Father ... and to the Son / And to... the Holy Ghost;

5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and... ever shall be / Forev-... er-more, A-men.

**KYRIE ELEISON** (Lord Have Mercy) **C:** ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. -  
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The LORD'S PRAYER** (Congregation and Pastor pray together)

**C:** ♪ Our Father, Who are in heaven, Hal-low-ed be- Thy Name--;  
Thy Kingdom come-, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heav-en;  
Give us this day our dai-ly bread; And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not- into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Pow'r and the Glory Forever and ever.  
**C:** ♪ A- - - - -men.

**The (Evening) COLLECT** (Pastor prays, Congregation: ♪ **Amen**)

P: (Let us pray:) O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and  
all just works proceed, Give Your servants that peace which the world  
cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your Commandments,  
And also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies,  
may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus  
Christ, our Saviour, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God now and forever.

**C:** ♪ A- - -men.

**The BENEDICAMUS** P: ♪ *Let us bless the Lord.* **C:** ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

**The BENEDICTION** P: ♪ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* **C:** ♪ A- - -men.

**CLOSING HYMN** *Abide With Me* ELH #561 vv1-2,7-8 H.F. Lyte EVENTIDE

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide; - The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, - Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see. O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!

7. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

8. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes, / Shine through the gloom, and point me  
to the skies. / Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;

**IN LIFE, IN DEATH, O LORD, ABIDE WITH ME!**

**Silent Prayer** (Candles out.) You may be seated. ~ p.5 ~ **FELLOWSHIP.**



## I. The Service of Vespers ELH p.120



**OPENING HYMN:** "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" ELH #287 (6 verses) JESU,

1. Jesus, I will ponder now - On Thy holy Passion;  
With Thy Spirit me endow - For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith - May the image cherish  
Of Thy suffering, pain, and death, - That I may not perish.

2. Make me see Thy great distress, - Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness - And Thy crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, - Spear and nails, did wound Thee,  
How for man Thou diedst, O God, - Who with thorns had crowned Thee.

3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone - Make me see Thy Passion,  
But its cause to me make known - And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin - Wrought Thy deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause hath been - Of Thy crucifixion.

4. Grant that I Thy Passion view - With repentant grieving  
Nor Thee crucify anew - By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun - Every sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son - Suffered without measure?

5. If my sins give me alarm - And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Thy cross my fear disarm, - Peace of conscience give me.  
Grant that I may trust in Thee - And Thy holy Passion.  
If His Son so loveth me, - God must have compassion.

6. Grant that I may willingly - Bear with Thee my crosses,  
Learning humbleness of Thee, - Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give Thee love for love! - Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heaven above - Sing Thy praise forever.



**The INVOCATION** (Congregation please rise if you are able.)

P: *In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* **C:**  
**Amen.**

P: *Makes haste O God, to deliver me.* **C:** **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

P: *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.*

**C:** **A broken spirit and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Holy Ghost; As it was**  
**in the beginning, is now, And every shall be; forevermore. Amen.**

### The CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

**CORPORATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** (Use ELH p.130-132 Form II)

P: *I now ask you, in the presence of God, Who searches the heart:  
Do you sincerely **confess** that you have sinned against God and deserve  
His wrath and punishment?*

**C:** **I do so confess.**

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(continue, next page 3 7)

P: Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you heartily **repent** of all your sins committed in thought, word and deed?

**C: I do repent.**

P: Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely **believe** that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**C: I do so believe.**

P: Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should **not** perish, but have everlasting life

Do you **promise** that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**C: I do so promise.**

P: Truly you should promise, for Christ our Lord says: "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Finally, Do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**C: I do so believe.**

P: Truly you should believe, for Christ our Lord says: "Whoever hears you, hears Me" and "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."

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### The ABSOLUTION (Form II. ELH p.132)

P: Upon this your confession, By the authority of God and my holy office I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May He Who has begun the good work in you perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

**The INTROIT** (Spoken by the Pastor – see **page 1** for words.)

### The VERSICLES ELH, p.120

P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.

P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**The GLORIA PATRI** C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and- to- the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men. (No Alleluia - Lent)

**The COLLECT** (Prayer for Ash Wednesday, words on **page 1** – Pastor prays.)

**C: Amen.** (after the Collect...) **The congregation may be seated.**

✠ p.3 ✠

## II. The Service of The Word – 5. The Lection p.121

**OLD TESTAMENT: Joel 2:12-19** Lord calls His people to *true repentance*.

♪ Here are the words to our **Psalm 91** - Please sing along! ♪

**Ref. C:** ♪ Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble; Be with me Lord, I pray.

(Choir): 1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord Most High, ...

**Ref. C:** ♪ Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble; Be with me Lord, I pray.

(Choir): 2. No evil shall befall you, no pain come near, For his angels ...

**Ref. C:** ♪ Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble; Be with me Lord, I pray.

(Choir): 3. Those who cling to the Lord live secure in His love, Lifted high ...

**Ref. C:** ♪ Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble; Be with me Lord, I pray.

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**EPISTLE: II Corinthians 5:20-6:10** Do not receive God's Grace in vain.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:16-21** Do the Father's Will for the *right* reasons.

### RESPONSORY (After the readings)

P: ♪ O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!

**APOSTLES' CREED** (Confession of **Faith**, on **ELH p.46**) All say together:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into Hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty

From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life ✠

everlasting. Amen. Δ (Congregation may be seated for the next hymn.)

**SERMON HYMN: "The Tree of Life"** ELH #302 (4 verses) S.P. STARKE

1. The tree of life with ev'ry good  
In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.

2. The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice to Eve beguile  
And Adam too, by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.

3. What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need -  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4. Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
Flows life eternal in His name;  
For all who trust, and will believe,  
Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood  
The tree of life with every good.

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**LENT-0(AW) Genesis 3:15 “THE GARDEN OF PROMISE” 03.05.14 OSL**

**2014-LENT MIDWEEK: FROM GARDEN TO GLORY**

**TONIGHT INTRODUCTION** It all began in a garden, the Garden of Eden. God the Almighty broke into our world and announced the very first gospel promise. Without this promise there would be no Lent and no Easter. There would only be death and damnation for us. But the seeds of our salvation were first planted in this Garden of Promise.

The promise **completely reversed** what had just taken place. Satan had planted the seed of unbelief by tempting Adam and Eve to sin. They no longer believed God's words. They ate the forbidden fruit. That single seed of unbelief immediately sprang to life and, reaching out like some horrible death-plant, wrapped its tendrils around this man and woman to squeeze the life out of them.

They felt the squeeze of God's decree: *“The day you eat of it, you will surely die!”* They didn't turn to God for mercy. They didn't look to him for a second chance. They **ran for cover and tried to hide** from God.

The death-plant produced a foul fruit: enmity. They felt nothing but enmity - in other words, the opposite of peace. They shook their fists at God. They shook their fists at each other. They shook their fists at Satan. They were quick to blame God for their circumstances. They were willing to throw each other under the bus if it would save their own skin. What had seemed like such an inviting friendliness from Satan was now unmasked as a malicious trick to destroy them. In great irony they had become unwitting allies of this serpent who hated them and wanted them doomed like himself. Inside and out, they now felt the permeating, damning hatred that a holy God has for what they had become. It was sheer terror.

But God announced a reversal of that enmity. Speaking to the devil, God said, ***“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”*** God would change things! The woman wouldn't be an ally to the devil anymore. God would create enmity between her and the devil. God would put her at odds with Satan.

That means she and God would have to be reconciled and be at peace with each other and be friends again. For to be an enemy of Satan is to be a friend of God. And this announcement of friendship was not offered to the woman only, but also to her husband and to all their descendants - that means you and me. God said to the snake, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers.”*

Notice how wonder-inspiring our God is. He did not advise Eve to redirect her hatred upon the serpent. He did not command her to hate the evil one. Nor did God urge her to reach up to heaven with her prayers to invite the change. The fact is, when God did give her the opportunity merely to fess up, she couldn't do it. She utterly lacked the power to change her affections and save herself.

So God would do it. He said, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”* God **cut off the tendrils of death at the roots** and saved the man's and woman's lives by promising to send a Savior.

But who would this promised Savior be? He would be the offspring of the woman. In other words, the promised Savior would be **True Man**. But God also said this to the snake: “He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Satan would be crushed. The only one in the universe powerful enough to do that is God himself. So the promised Savior would also have to be God. **True man and True God**. The promised Savior would be both.

In the process of crushing the serpent and saving humankind, the promised Savior would have to suffer. The serpent would strike his heel. As true man, Jesus would step into our shoes. He would be our substitute. He would take on Himself the blame for all sin from the very beginning in that first garden to this very day. He would let the life be squeezed out of Himself. But as the death-plant with its tendrils would tighten its grip around Him, it would be broken and torn apart, because as true God, Jesus is too large and too powerfully innocent for death to keep its hold on Him.

Now His Victory over death is **our victory over death**. You see, Jesus broke death's grip not just as God but also as a man. Now, since he is a man like us and on our team, he shares his breakout from death - his success in coming back to life - with you and me and makes it our success. Jesus once said, *“Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19)*. **Death has no more of a grip on people who trust** in Jesus than it does on Jesus himself.

God said, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”* With this simple promise, the Spirit of God lifted these two fallen creatures, Adam and Eve, up from the dust, restored their love for him, consoled them, and rescued their lives. With these words, they were forgiven by God, reconciled to him, and made God's eternal friends and Satan's everlasting enemies. Note this well! God intervened and repaired what was broken. So great is his love for humankind. So great is his love for you. He refused to wait around up there in heaven for you to get up off your couch and do something about your own salvation.

To this very day the Spirit of God works the same way in you and me as He worked in Adam and Eve. He comes from heaven and makes it happen. Through His simple Gospel promises and through his Word connected to water and bread and wine, he forgives our sins. He lifts us up, restores our love for him, consoles us, and rescues our lives. For that is how he has promised to come to us. We're saved not by our own will or efforts or compliance but by God's working through his Word and sacraments in us. The Holy Spirit puts the enmity between us and Satan by making us God's friends when he breathes faith in Christ into us and comforts us with God's assurance of salvation.

The promise in that very first garden set the stage for the history of the entire world. That promise, **Genesis 3:15**, is what the **rest of the Bible is all about**. It announced the coming of a Savior who would bring about reconciliation between us and God. Therefore the **focal point of all Scripture and of all history is the time and place where the promise was fulfilled**: on the brow of a hill outside Jerusalem called **Golgotha**. Everyone throughout history who believes this will be saved. Everyone who does not will be damned.

One would think the Garden of Eden would be a synonym in our minds for *death trap*. But because of the first Gospel promise, all kinds of life has sprung forth from it. Through faith in that promise, people's lives are saved without end. It is the Garden of Promise. **In Jesus' Name, Amen. SDG**