

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

450 W. Ohio • Marquette, Michigan

www.calvary.clclutheran.org



Divine Worship. 9:30am
Sunday School. . . 10:45am
Bible Class...10:50am
 Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor
 Church: (906) 226-9372
 Parsonage: (906) 228-3566

LENT TWO
 March 17, 2019

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

Psalm: 2 (Pg.123)
Prayer: I (Pg. 110)
Organist: Mr. Walter Priebe

HYMNS: 425 239 579 657

PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 425 – “All Depends on Our Possessing”

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE (TLH Pg.5ff.)

The Invocation... The Confession of Sins... Absolution, -- “Amen.”
 The Introit... The Gloria Patri (Pg. 6)...The Kyrie (Pg. 7).

Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light, My Strength by day, my Trust by night, On earth I'm but a passing guest and sorely with my sins opprest.

Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read That Thou to save me hast decreed and grant that in Thine opened side My troubled soul may ever hide.

Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just. I take my homeward way in trust. The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide When here I may no more abide.

The Salutation (Pg. 9) ...The Collect -- “Amen.”

CLC CALL NEWS

Trinity Lutheran, Spokane WA, has requested a Graduate of Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in the Spring. There is one, Mr. Sam Naumann • Resurrection Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi, Texas has called Pastor Mark Bernthal who currently serves Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI. • Teacher Andrew Roehl of Eau Claire Wisconsin has been called by St. John’s Lutheran School in Okabena, MN. • Pastor Joe Naumann has returned the call of Bethel Lutheran of Morris, MN. Missionary Peter Evensen has accepted a call to serve Bethel on an short-term Interim Basis. • Faith Lutheran School in Markesan, WI, has called Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran School in Winter Haven, FL to serve as teacher and principal.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2019	
<i>The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Calvary to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The amount given to ‘Missions’ on your church envelope goes to this pledge. In the event that our offerings fall short of our pledge, the difference will be taken from the Calvary General Fund. In the event that our offerings exceed our pledge, additional funds will be placed in the General Fund.</i>	
Amount Pledged 2019	Amount Received as of 3/10/19
\$7000.00	\$1175.00 (-5825.00)

CLCI SEMINARY STUDENT SPONSORSHIP - \$40/MO		
APRIL GOAL	RECEIVED 3/10	APRIL GOAL
\$30.00	\$0	\$30.00

The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – Calvary Offerings 3/10/19				
General Fund	Loose Offerings	Missions (CBP)	Econo-Slips for Ladies	
\$1015.00	\$49.09	\$240.00	\$236.65	
Offerings Total: \$1540.74				

* Scripture quotations (unless otherwise noted) are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson Publishers. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS; MARCH 18-23, 2019

Monday - Romans 1 We live among humans deceived by the theory of evolution (18-21), devoted to sexual perversion (22-28), rotten in heart, mind, and soul (29-32)—and some of their mud will stick to us. So, let's admire God's way of compensating and appreciate Jesus all the more, for He has squared our account with God; what's good enough for God is good enough for us (16-17). His loving mercy has power to cleanse us from the inside-out (16-17).

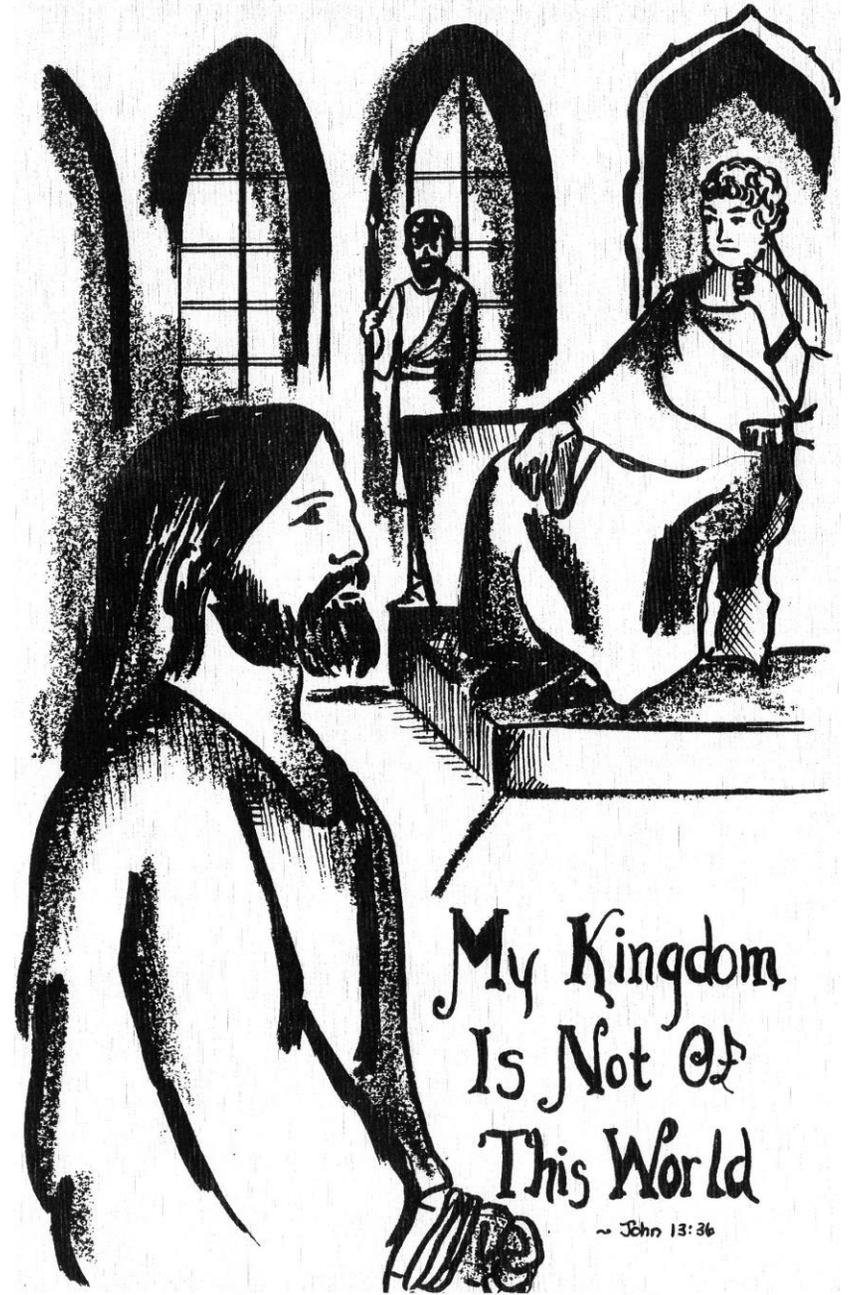
Tuesday - Romans 2:1-3:20 How does that impact traditional Christians? Sometimes we are proud and impenitent, but at other times we do the right thing for the right reason (1-10). Faced with this broad spectrum of human behavior, God reacts as each occasion/person requires (11-16), not as one may think he deserves (2:17-3:18). Bottom line: God downloaded His law not to save anybody, but to condemn everybody (19-20).

Wednesday - Romans 3:21-31 That leaves us at God's mercy, of course, which is our only hope now and forever. But how did He accomplish it? Well, when Jesus lived in humanity's shoes, He gained full credit for humanity, and the Father transferred Jesus' credits to our side of the ledger. That holds water because God stands behind it (24-26); His standards have been upheld by Jesus (not by our "good deeds"), and we rejoice in God's mercy (27-31).

Thursday - Romans 4 If someone needs more convincing, he should pay closer attention to the way God set His love on Abraham, patriarch of the Church. Abraham did not please God because he was a decent fellow, but because he was *fully convinced that what God had promised He was also able to perform, and therefore it* (his trust in God's promises) *was accounted to him for righteousness*. Same for us: we trust God to resurrect us with Jesus.

Friday - Romans 5 presents Christ as Adam's counterpart and our champion. **Chapter 6:** Our sin-nature has been counterbalanced by God's Spirit so that we love God and willingly place ourselves in His service. Though God has exempted us from slavery to His Law, we don't use that as an escape hatch from Christian living (**Chapter 7:**1-12), and we keep on struggling with our human nature, often to our shame and regret. But Jesus is still the answer to our needs (7:13-25).

Saturday - Romans 8 Those who love God don't throw dirt on Him (1-11); as we need straightening out, His Spirit goes to work on us (12-17); when we feel burdened by life, His Spirit helps us, prompts our prayers, and assures us God has our best interests at heart. Bottom line: Since *God did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up* (separated from us) *for us all – how should He not with Him* (returned to us) *give us everything* we need during our earthly pilgrimage to heaven? [This rhetorical question merits our Amen!]



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lent Two.....March 17, 2019

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

PSALM 2

¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”

⁷ “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him. *

EPISTLE LESSON:

ACTS 4:13-31

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them *is* evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny *it*. ¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”

¹⁸ So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” ²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

²³ And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said [Psalm 2]:

'Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?

²⁶ *The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.'*

²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. *

THE GRADUAL -- (A Prayer for the Sunday read responsively)

Pastor: O Lord, the troubles of my heart grow larger;

Congregation: Deliver me out of my distress!

P: Look upon my affliction and my pain;

C: Forgive all my sins. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C: His mercy endures forever! Hallelujah!

(Sung) Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

"Glory be to Thee, O Lord!"

GOSPEL LESSON:

JOHN 17:1-26

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

CLC Financial Report - February

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2018	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 8 Months	Balance 2/28/2019
General Fund	0	639,520	676,720,	\$652,800	- 37,200
ILC Operations	0	1,022,282	848,116	\$940,672	174,166
Total	\$0	\$1,661,802	\$1,524,836	\$1,593,472	\$136,966
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	108,123	79,617	65,244		122,496
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	15,500	188,864	149,252		55,112
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	55,340	104,370	127,548		32,162
Kinship	36,637	90,343	76,301		50,679
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,356,241	326,738	499,029		1,183,950
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	77,286	78,173	108,721		46,738
Reserve Fund	298,855	-9,424	0		289,431
Total	\$1,947,982	\$858,681	\$1,026,095		\$1,780,568

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall)	
Beginning Balance November 1, 2017	\$1,460,931
Current Balance February 28, 2019	\$1,240,171
Principal paid to date	\$220,760

General Fund – Offerings of \$76,671 vs disbursements of \$71,406. The GF \$5,000 positive cash flow for the month reduced the negative balance to - \$37,200. General fund net positive receipts reduced the deficit the 3rd month in a row. The GF provides major subsidy to board budgets of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Ed & Publications. It is supported by monthly congregational & special offerings to the General Fund (CBP).

ILC Operations– ILC revenue (incl subsidy) was \$112,892 vs disbursements of \$105,149.

ILC Building Projects – Revenues of \$12,653 from congregation offerings vs disbursements of \$8,000 for Academic Center/North Hall loan.

CEF – Revenue of \$40,698 from CEF loan repayments vs disbursements of \$81,649, including the requested repayment of 3 CEF notes totaling \$72,365 and \$9,000 periodic interest due & paid.

MDF – Offerings of \$19,073 vs disbursements of \$30,686 (\$20,000 Congo Sem Building 2nd of 3 installments; \$5,000 Zambia land purchase; \$5,600 Visitation & literature for India/Africa outreach.)

SAF – Revenue of \$7,468 included congregation offerings (\$1,229) and student loan repayments (\$6,239) vs disbursements of \$11,853, mostly for Student Grants, Loans, & Scholarships.

Kinship – Offerings of \$34,619 vs disbursed \$80 for Nigeria widow aid.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

After our Ash Wednesday Communion Service, we will host Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7pm. These will be held on March 20th, 27th, April 3rd and 10th. It will involve a pulpit exchange with St. Peter's Lutheran in Stambaugh and Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Our Lenten Series is entitled Sermons by the Suffering Servant. There will be coffee and snacks to follow those services.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 14th and includes our Maundy Thursday Communion Service April 18th at 7pm and our Good Friday Worship at 1pm on Friday April 19th.

DAILY REST DEVOTIONAL -- The first "Daily Rest" devotional, a project of the CLC Board of Education and Publications and contributed to by many CLC Pastors, has been placed on the back table. "Daily Rest" is a subscription-based devotion periodical delivered **four** times per year with daily devotions for the subsequent fourteen weeks. If you are interested in subscribing to receive these devotions delivered to you, subscriptions are **\$15** a year. A sign-up list will be posted in a few weeks.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

The celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus begins on Sunday April 21st with Easter Breakfast served by the men of Calvary at 8am. There is no Bible Class or Sunday School on Easter Sunday so our worship will follow Breakfast at 9:30am.

⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as *We* are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." *

"Praise be to Thee, O Christ!"

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

APOSTLES CREED (PG. 12)

HYMN: 239 – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

SERMON:

JOHN 18:28-40

[cf. also Matthew 27:2, 11–14; Mark 15:1–5; Luke 23:1–5]

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. ²⁹ Pilate then went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?”

³⁰ They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”

³¹ Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.”

Therefore the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” ³² that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered him, “**Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?**”

³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”

³⁶ Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.**”

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, “**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.**”

³⁸ Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.”

[cf. also Matthew 27:15–31; Mark 15:6–20; Luke 23:13–25]

³⁹ “But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰ Then they all cried again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

THE KINGDOM CHRIST RULES

...is not an earthly kingdom.

...is not concerned with earthly things.

...is a kingdom of truth.

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

THE OFFERING HYMN:

(TLH 442:1-2)

**Lord of Glory, who hast bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Thine own unsparing hand;
Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.**

PRAYER(S)...THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 579 – “Almighty Lord, before Thy Throne”

THE COLLECT: Pastor

CONGREGATION: (Sung) “Amen.”

THE BENEDICTION: Pastor

CONGREGATION: (Sung) “Amen, Amen, Amen.”

CLOSING HYMN: 657 – “Beautiful Savior”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 17, 2019

TODAY:

GAME DAY

This afternoon at 2pm we will gather in the church fellowship hall to play games. Please bring a game and a snack and join us! This is the final game day of 2019.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Confirmation Class, 3pm

Wednesday: Choir Practice 6pm; Midweek Lenten Worship, 7pm.

Sunday: Worship 9:30am; SS 10:45am; Bible Class, 10:50am

CHOIR PRACTICE

The Choir practices Wednesday at 6pm.

JOHN

(John means: "The Lord has been Gracious".)

GENERAL:

The Gospel of John is the first of five books recorded in the New Testament, given to the Apostle John to write down for our comfort and learning.

The Purpose of John's Gospel is related in the 20th chapter (30-31): "...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." The Gospel of John is written to believers in order to strengthen and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. It seems that there was a certain unbeliever named Cerinthus who lived during John's life and who denied that Jesus was the Son of God.

It may be because of this that John emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God in many different ways. John calls Jesus...The **WORD of GOD** (LOGOS) – John 1:1-18; The **Messiah** –1:41-51, 10:22-25, etc.; The **Son of God** – 3:16, 9:35-37, 10:29-39; The **Son of Man** (which is actually a messianic name) – 3:12-15, 12:27-36.

How is John different from Matthew, Mark and Luke?

John's Gospel adds many things that are not found in the first three Gospels. He does not proceed in a strictly historical order but is more concerned with the spiritual teachings of Jesus. John translates and explains Hebrew words and Jewish customs and because of this it is most likely that he wrote to Gentiles.

Few Parables -- John's Gospel records very few Parables. **Jesus' Passion or suffering is emphasized**...over half the book concerns Jesus' last days. **Jesus' High Priestly Prayer** – John also records the longest prayer of Jesus, called the 'High Priestly Prayer' in John 17:1-26. In this prayer, Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples and future believers. In His deepest hour of gloom, He looks forward to the blessed results of His victory over sin and death and the unity that the Redeemed will share in Him. **Miracles** -- **There are six miracles that are found only in John's Gospel:** **1.** The Water into Wine – 2:1-11; **2.** Healing of the Official's Son – 4:46-54; **3.** Healing of the Blind man at the pool – 5:1-9; **4.** Healing of the Man born blind – 9:1-7; **5.** The Raising of Lazarus – 11; **6.** The Second Catch of Fish after Resurrection – 21:1-6.

Jesus is the great 'I AM'. God said to Moses at the burning bush, 'I AM WHO I AM'. (Exodus 3:14) In John 8:38 Jesus alerts us to who He is when He says, 'Before Abraham was born, I AM!' This statement of Jesus sheds light on these other statements by the great 'I AM': **I AM The Bread of Life** – 6:35; **I AM The Messiah** – 4:26; **I AM The Light of the World** – 9:5; **I AM The Son of God** – 10:36; **I AM The Door** – 10:7; **I AM The Lord and Master** – 13:13; **I AM The Good Shepherd** – 10:11-14;

I AM The Alpha and the Omega – Rev. 1:8; **I AM The Resurrection and the Life** – 11:25; **I AM The First and the Last** – Rev. 1:17; **I AM The Way, the Truth and the Life** – 14:6; **I AM The Vine** – 15:1

AUTHOR/WRITER:

While commonly known as the Gospel of John, we know that the Author of this book is God. God the Holy Spirit gave John the very words to write down.

God used John to write this book, along with: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation. While John does not name himself as the writer, there can be little doubt that he was the writer and also an eyewitness – cf. John 19:25-27; 34-37; 21:24-25. The earliest Christians say that the book was written by John.

We know from the Gospels that John was a fisherman by trade, one of the sons of Zebedee (James was his brother). Jesus referred to James and John as 'the sons of thunder' (Mark 3:17). James and John were fishermen by trade who were partners with Peter and Andrew on the Lake of Galilee until Jesus called them to be His disciples. Together with Peter and James, John was privileged to witness some of the more amazing acts of Jesus – like the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus daughter and of His prayer in Gethsemane.

John is also referred to as 'the disciple whom the Lord loved.' (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20) It seems that John's personal relationship with Jesus was more intimate than any other disciple (13:33, etc). It may have been because of this close relationship that Jesus entrusted Mary his mother into John's care at His death (19:27) and he took her into his own home. Tradition has it that he provided for her until she died in the year 48 AD.

John was considered one of the pillars of the church in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9 cf. Also Acts 3:1, 4:13, 8:14). It is believed that he left Jerusalem early and went to Asia Minor, living in Ephesus. Sometime after Paul and Peter were killed, He was banished to the Island of Patmos where he received the Revelation (1:9). According to legend, he died near the end of the first century (100 AD) and was the only one of the Apostles who died a natural death. **Tradition says that John wrote this Gospel near the end of the first century in Ephesus.**

OUTLINE:

- I. **The Incarnate Word (1:1-18)**
- II. **The Initial Testimony (1:19-2:11)**
- III. **Jesus Revealed to be the Son of God in Word and Deed (2:12-12:50)**
- IV. **Jesus Revealed to be the Son of God in Death & Resurrection (13-21).**

The Gospel of John shows us that Jesus of Nazareth was the Eternal Son of God, the Great I AM. The Apostle John writes so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that in believing we may have life in His Name.

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Few Parables -- John's Gospel records very few Parables. **Jesus' Passion or suffering is emphasized**...over half the book concerns Jesus' last days. **Jesus' High Priestly Prayer** – John also records the longest prayer of Jesus, called the 'High Priestly Prayer' in John 17:1-26. In this prayer, Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples and future believers. In His deepest hour of gloom, He looks forward to the blessed results of His victory over sin and death and the unity that the Redeemed will share in Him. **Miracles** -- **There are six miracles that are found only in John's Gospel:** **1.** The Water into Wine – 2:1-11; **2.** Healing of the Official's Son – 4:46-54; **3.** Healing of the Blind man at the pool – 5:1-9; **4.** Healing of the Man born blind – 9:1-7; **5.** The Raising of Lazarus – 11; **6.** The Second Catch of Fish after Resurrection – 21:1-6.

Jesus is the great 'I AM'. God said to Moses at the burning bush, 'I AM WHO I AM'. (Exodus 3:14) In John 8:38 Jesus alerts us to who He is when He says, 'Before Abraham was born, I AM!' This statement of Jesus sheds light on these other statements by the great 'I AM': **I AM The Bread of Life** – 6:35; **I AM The Messiah** – 4:26; **I AM The Light of the World** – 9:5; **I AM The Son of God** – 10:36; **I AM The Door** – 10:7; **I AM The Lord and Master** – 13:13; **I AM The Good Shepherd** – 10:11-14;

I AM The Alpha and the Omega – Rev. 1:8; **I AM The Resurrection and the Life** – 11:25; **I AM The First and the Last** – Rev. 1:17; **I AM The Way, the Truth and the Life** – 14:6; **I AM The Vine** – 15:1

AUTHOR/WRITER:

While commonly known as the Gospel of John, we know that the Author of this book is God. God the Holy Spirit gave John the very words to write down.

God used John to write this book, along with: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation. While John does not name himself as the writer, there can be little doubt that he was the writer and also an eyewitness – cf. John 19:25-27; 34-37; 21:24-25. The earliest Christians say that the book was written by John.

We know from the Gospels that John was a fisherman by trade, one of the sons of Zebedee (James was his brother). Jesus referred to James and John as 'the sons of thunder' (Mark 3:17). James and John were fishermen by trade who were partners with Peter and Andrew on the Lake of Galilee until Jesus called them to be His disciples. Together with Peter and James, John was privileged to witness some of the more amazing acts of Jesus – like the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus daughter and of His prayer in Gethsemane.

John is also referred to as 'the disciple whom the Lord loved.' (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20) It seems that John's personal relationship with Jesus was more intimate than any other disciple (13:33, etc). It may have been because of this close relationship that Jesus entrusted Mary his mother into John's care at His death (19:27) and he took her into his own home. Tradition has it that he provided for her until she died in the year 48 AD.

John was considered one of the pillars of the church in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9 cf. Also Acts 3:1, 4:13, 8:14). It is believed that he left Jerusalem early and went to Asia Minor, living in Ephesus. Sometime after Paul and Peter were killed, He was banished to the Island of Patmos where he received the Revelation (1:9). According to legend, he died near the end of the first century (100 AD) and was the only one of the Apostles who died a natural death. **Tradition says that John wrote this Gospel near the end of the first century in Ephesus.**

OUTLINE:

- I. The Incarnate Word (1:1-18)**
- II. The Initial Testimony (1:19-2:11)**
- III. Jesus Revealed to be the Son of God in Word and Deed (2:12-12:50)**
- IV. Jesus Revealed to be the Son of God in Death & Resurrection (13-21).**

The Gospel of John shows us that Jesus of Nazareth was the Eternal Son of God, the Great I AM. The Apostle John writes so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that in believing we may have life in His Name.