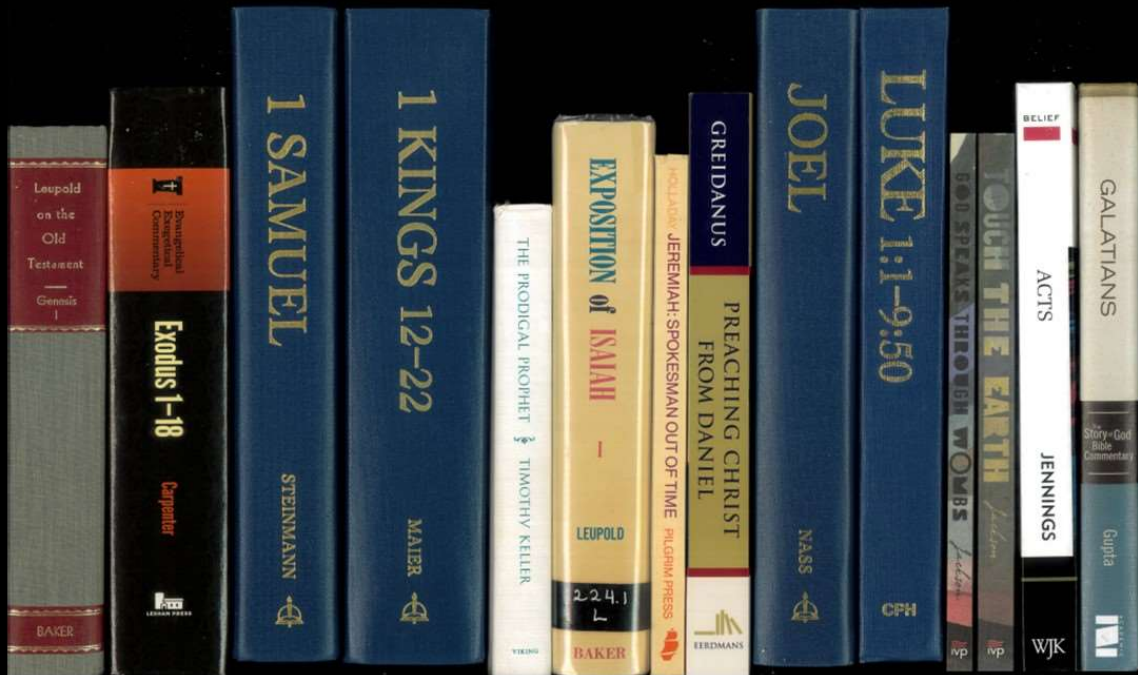


# NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 3



FOLLOWING THE SWEEP OF SCRIPTURE  
FROM CREATION TO CHRIST TO THE EARLY CHURCH

**TODAY'S READING**  
**GENESIS 2 & 3 —THE FALL INTO SIN**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

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## **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:**

THE SANDERS FAMILY IN CELEBRATION OF JOCELYN'S BIRTHDAY



**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY – YEAR 3**

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Year 3 of the Narrative Lectionary from the appointed readings from the Old Testament.

**Opening Hymn**

**Earth and All Stars**

LSB 817 sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 Earth and all stars!	Loud rush - ing plan - ets!	Sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud blow - ing snow - storm!	Sing to the
5 Class - rooms and labs!	Loud boil - ing test tubes!	Sing to the
6 Knowl - edge and truth!	Loud sound - ing wis - dom!	Sing to the

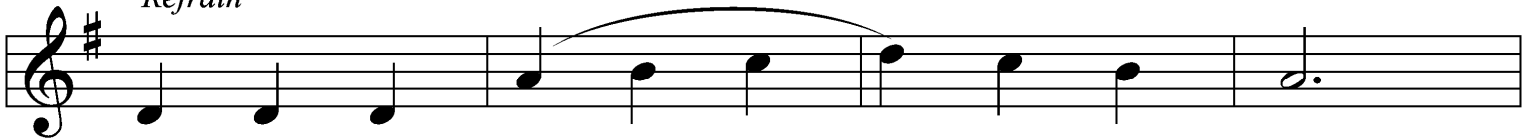


Lord	a new song!	Oh, vic - to - ry!	Loud shout - ing
Lord	a new song!	Flow - ers and trees!	Loud rus - tling
Lord	a new song!	Ath - lete and band!	Loud cheer - ing
Lord	a new song!	Daugh - ter and son!	Loud pray - ing



ar - my! Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
dry leaves! Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
peo - ple! Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
mem - bers! Sing to the	Lord	a new song!

*Refrain*



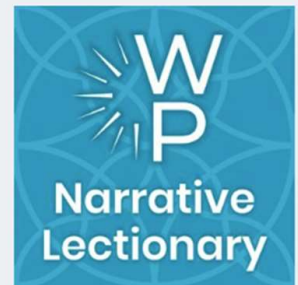
He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

# What is the narrative lectionary?

The **Narrative Lectionary** is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.



The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.

## ***Invocation (based on Hannah's Song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10)***

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: My heart rejoices in the LORD;

C: ***I rejoice in Your deliverance.***

P: No one is holy like the LORD! There is no other god besides the LORD!

C: ***There is no rock like our God!***

P: The bows of warriors are shattered,

C: ***but those who stumble receive strength.***

P: The well-fed are now desperate for food,

C: ***but the hungry are now always full.***

P: The LORD lifts the weak from the dust;

C: ***He raises the poor to a place of honor.***

P: The LORD executes judgment to the ends of the earth.

C: ***and exalts the power of His Anointed One: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

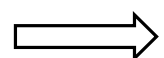
## ***Confession and Absolution (Exodus 32:7-9,12)***

P: When the Lord brought the people out of Egypt, out of slavery, and when Moses was on the mountain receiving the Law of God, the people became impatient. So Aaron made a golden calf and said, "This is the god who brought you out of Egypt." When the Lord saw this, He said, "The people have acted corruptly."

We know ourselves, and we know we are not far from such sin. We also have acted corruptly in our lives.

C: **We confess that we have quickly turned aside from the way of God.**

**We often are a stiff-necked people, stubborn in our sinful ways.**



P: The Lord would be right to let His anger burn against us and destroy us. But even as Moses pleaded with the Lord on behalf of the people, so now Jesus pleads for us before the Father. So we are bold to say:

**C: Turn Your burning anger away from us for the sake of Jesus Christ.  
Remember Your promises of old to bring salvation for Your people.  
Rescue us from sin and death for the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.**

P: And indeed, the Lord has turned His anger away from you. He will not utterly destroy you. He has promised to make You to be His people, transformed by His Holy Spirit. Therefore, based on this promise of God's steadfast love, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**"As Surely As I Live," God Said**

LSB 614, sts. 1,7 (alt.); tune: 580



1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I would not  
7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be For ab - so



see the sin - ner dead. I want him turned from  
- lu - tion full and free, In which You show Your



er - ror's ways, Re - pen - tant, liv - ing end - less days."  
rich - est grace; This gift for - gives us in this place.

**Installation of Christian Education Staff**

*This installation is based on Bethel's discipleship and membership language. It encourages the Christian Education Staff to prayerfully ask God to be at work in their own lives while also affirming our commitments together as a congregation.*

P: At Bethel, our mission is to help people be Disciples—life-long learners & followers of Jesus Christ. Discipleship means God awakening Disciples from head knowledge of the faith to "heart life". Are you a disciple of Jesus?

**E: I am through the grace of God.**

P: As Christian Education Staff, do you prayerfully accept your role to teach, support, and lead others in growing as disciples—helping others grow in head knowledge of the faith while also encouraging them in their “heart life”?

**E: I do.**

P: As a gathering of disciples, Bethel seeks to teach faith in Jesus according to God's Word as best expressed in Lutheran theology according to the Lutheran Confessions. Will you hold to this commitment in your teaching while seeking the guidance and support from the Pastor in our doctrine?

**E: I will.**

P: Before you can teach others, you must also seek to be shepherded and held accountable in your life as a believer in Jesus. Do you commit yourselves to seeking ways to be built up in your faith even as you encourage fellow believers at Bethel in their faith?

**E: I do.**

P: Do you then accept your Christian Education positions as your way of supporting the mission of the congregation to bring the Gospel to those who need Jesus?

**E: I do by the grace of God. Amen.**

P: I now ask those gathered here as representatives of this congregation. Having heard the promises made by our Christian Education Staff, will you pray for them as fellow disciples, asking God to help them grow in their own discipleship even as they encourage all of us in our faith? Will you support and work with them as they give us opportunities to grow in the head of the knowledge of the faith and our “heart life”?

**C: We will.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as Christian Education leaders at Bethel Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer**

**Music:**

*Ann Souza*

**Little Lambs:**

*Dan and Erin Novacek*

**3rd/4th Grade:**

*Cindy Daluga, Michelle Berezcky*

**5th Grade:**

*Karen Kozlik, Claudine Rayos*

**Middle School:**

*JJ Jones, Diane & Ben Sanders*

**High School:**

*Carla Thompson, Elizabeth Blasko*

**Confirmation Lay Coaches:**

*Cindy Daluga, Elizabeth Blasko*

**Women's Bible Study:**

*Carla Thompson, Karen Kozlik*

**Sunday School Superintendents:** *Emily Schaefer, Jose Rayos*

**Bethel Preschool:**

*Donna Stutzman, Becky Anderson, Emily Schaefer,  
Nicole Kreamer, Kathy Prehm*

## Song of Praise

## Glorify Thy Name

1. Fa - ther, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,  
2. Je - sus, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,  
3. Spir - it, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,

glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth. \_\_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - fy Thy  
name, glo - ri - fy Thy name,  
glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth. \_\_\_\_\_

CCLI Song # 1383  
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### ***This Week's Narrative Lectionary Reading***      ***Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8 (VOICE)***

<sup>4</sup> This is the *detailed* story of the Eternal God's *singular work* in creating all that exists. On the day the heavens and earth were created, <sup>5</sup> there were no plants or vegetation to cover the earth. The fields were barren and empty, because the Eternal God had not sent the rains to *nourish* the soil or anyone to tend it. <sup>6</sup> In those days, a mist rose up from the ground to *blanket the earth*, and its vapors irrigated the land. <sup>7</sup> One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into *the shape we call* human, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.

<sup>15</sup> The Eternal God placed the *newly made* man in the garden of Eden in order to work the ground and care for it. <sup>16</sup> He made certain demands of the man *regarding life in the garden*.

**God:** Eat freely from any *and all* trees in the garden; <sup>17</sup> I only require that you abstain from eating the fruit of *one tree*—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Beware:* the day you eat the fruit of this tree, you will certainly die.

Of all the wild creatures the Eternal God had created, the serpent was the craftiest.

**Serpent** (to the woman): Is it true that God has forbidden you to eat *fruits* from the trees of the garden?

**Eve:** <sup>2</sup> No, serpent. God said we are free to eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup> We are granted access to any variety and all amounts of fruit with one exception: the fruit from the tree found in the center of the garden. God instructed us not to eat or touch the fruit of that tree or we would die.

**Serpent:** <sup>4</sup> Die? No, you'll not die. God is playing games with you. <sup>5</sup> The truth is that God knows the day you eat the fruit from that tree you will awaken something powerful in you and become like Him: possessing knowledge of both good and evil.

<sup>6</sup> The woman approached the tree, eyed its fruit, and coveted its mouth-watering, wisdom-granting beauty. She plucked a fruit from the tree and ate. She then offered the fruit to her husband who was close by, and he ate as well. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly their eyes were opened to a reality previously unknown. For the first time, they sensed their vulnerability and rushed to hide their naked bodies, stitching fig leaves into crude loincloths. <sup>8</sup> Then they heard the sound of the Eternal God walking in the cool misting shadows of the garden. The man and his wife took cover among the trees and hid from the Eternal God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things. You created Adam and Eve, man and woman, in your image. But after their fall into sin, You promised them a Savior who would crush the devil's might. Through this Savior, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be renewed and restored to be ones made in Your image, who will fully be transformed on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. In His Name, we pray.

C: **Amen.**



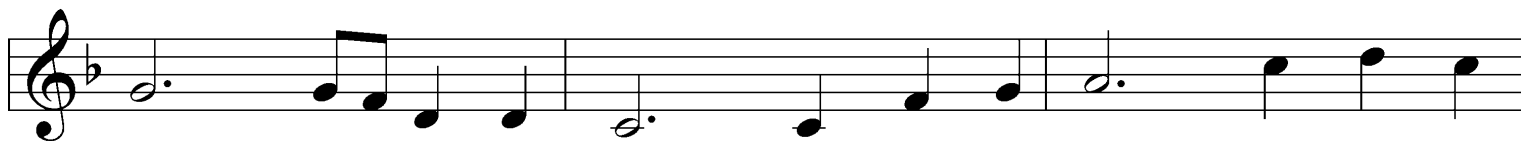
**Hymn of the Day**

**The Tree of Life**

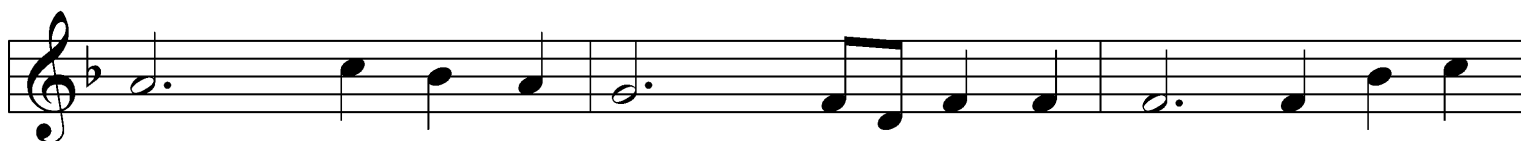
LSB 561 sts. 1-3



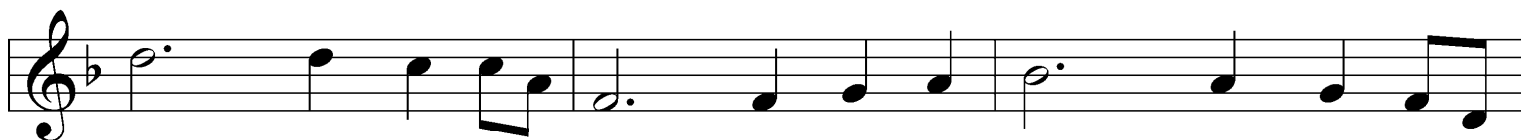
1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's



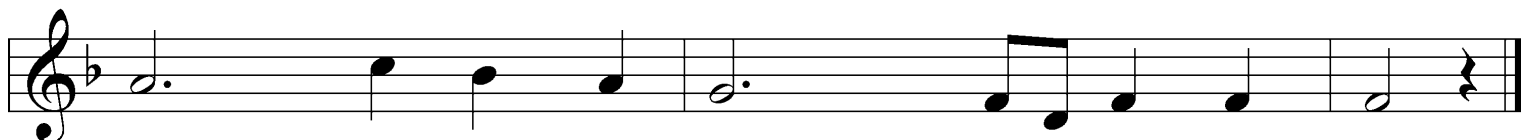
sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!

## **Children's Message**

### **Sermon**

***“The Beginning, the End, and. . .the Beginning?!?”***

### **Confession of Faith (based on Daniel 6:26-27)**

P: When God saved Daniel from the lion's den, it bore great witness to the Persian King, Darius, who then declared that people in his kingdom were to fear and revere the God of Daniel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. King Darius may not have fully understood the truth of his words, but we can declare those words like a creed—for we do indeed fear and revere the God of Daniel:

**C: For He is the living God;**

***He endures forever.***

***His kingdom will not be destroyed;***

***His authority is forever.***

***He rescues and delivers***

***and performs signs and wonders***

***in the heavens and on the earth.***

***He rescued Daniel from the power of the lions!***

P: And brothers and sisters in Christ, you know these words point to the far greater miracle of what the Lord brought about on Good Friday and Easter:

**C: For Jesus is the living Son of God;**

***He died on the cross, but death could not hold Him.***

***He rose again to conquer the grave for us.***

***He endures forever.***

***His kingdom will not be destroyed;***

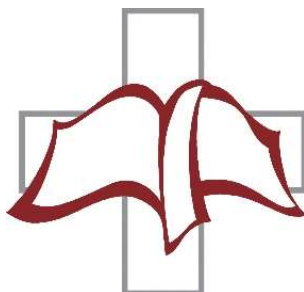
***His authority is forever.***

***He rescues and delivers***

***and performs signs and wonders***

***in the heavens and on the earth.***

***He rescues us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. Amen.***



## **Offering & Prayer Requests**

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

## **Offertory (Based on 1 Kings 17:17-24)**

LSB 814, sts. 1,5

*(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)*



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
5 He fills the poor with good; He gives the suf - f'ers rest.



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
The Lord hath judg - ments for the proud And jus - tice for the op - pressed.

## **Prayers**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily 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 power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Benediction (Blessing) (based on Isaiah 61:1-4,9)**

P: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon Jesus,

who has come to encourage the poor, to help the brokenhearted,  
to decree the release of captives, and the freeing of prisoners,  
to announce that the Lord will show his favor to those who follow His Son,  
the day when our God will seek vengeance against all evil, to console all who mourn,  
By giving You His Holy Spirit, you will be called oaks of righteousness,  
trees planted by the Lord to reveal his splendor.

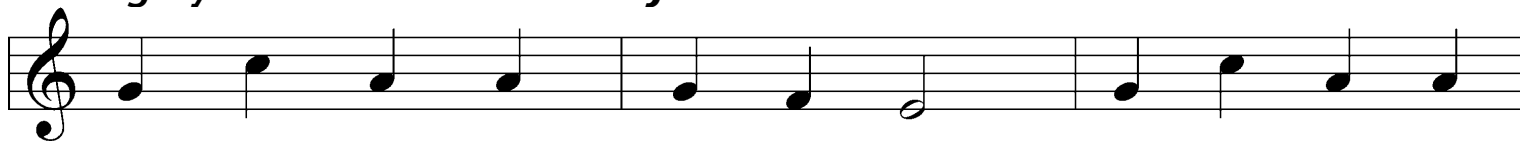
All who see you will recognize that the Lord has blessed you  
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

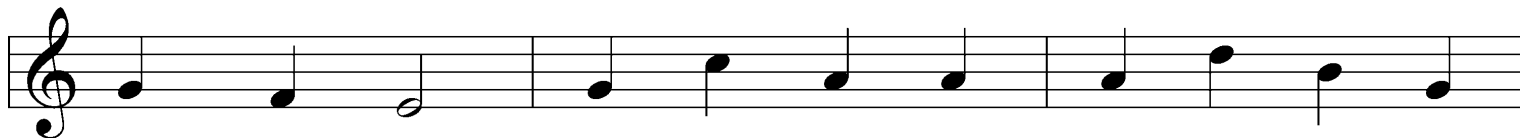
## Closing Hymn

## I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

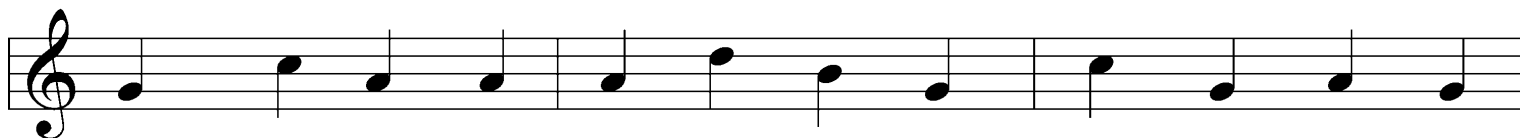
LSB 740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at  
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He  
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



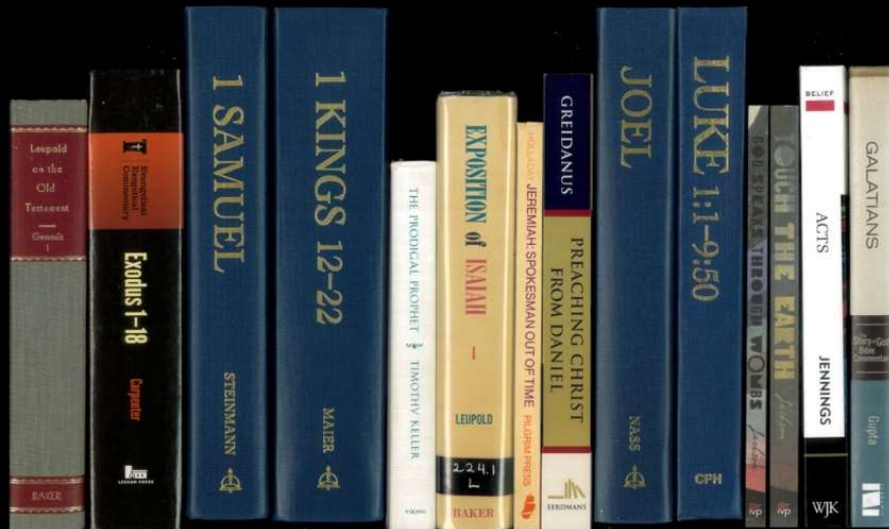
day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

## Announcements

### Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.  
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## NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 3



FOLLOWING THE SWEEP OF SCRIPTURE  
FROM CREATION TO CHRIST TO THE EARLY CHURCH

## SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30-11:30AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL WITH PASTOR SQUIRES

- Spend time in conversation about today's reading,
- ask questions, the things you're curious about,
- think about how this reading shapes our lives as disciples.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.  
NO PREVIOUS BIBLE STUDY REQUIRED.**