



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 9, 2025

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship! The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Prelude

"Gentle Child Jesus" by JS Bach

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Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator, our protector our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In **✠** Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”

ELW 413

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876 Public Domain

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise
to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and
sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-9 [9-13]

A reading from Isaiah.

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” ⁹ And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138 (Read responsively)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he

appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

“I Love You, Lord”

F^2 Gm/F F
 I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to
 $B\flat$ F/A Gm^7 F/A C^7sus C $B\flat/D$ C/E
 wor - ship you; O my soul, re - jice. Take
 F^2 Gm/F F F^7
 joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a
 $B\flat$ F/A $Fsus/G$ C^7 $B\flat^2/F$ F^2
 sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW 597

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876 Public Domain

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

Refrain
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain

Installation of Church Council Members

L: The following persons, having been elected by this congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

St. Paul wrote: “There are many different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way, in each person for the good of all.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation, and we thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord and his people.

We ask you to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather.

We ask you to work together to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in the congregation, and God’s will is done in the community and the world.

We ask you to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

We ask you to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council: Yes, by the help of God.

L: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all the baptized?

Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.

L: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Amen

Prayers of the people: God of grace, Hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

“Morning Prayer (Op. 39, No. 1) by Tchaikowsky

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Please stand

Offertory

“He Has Made Me Glad” © 1976 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

I will enter His gates

Scriptures for Singing

1. I will en - ter His gates with thanks - giv - ing in my
heart; I will en - ter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has
made. I will re - joice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad, I
will re - joice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad, I
will re - joice for He has made me glad.

Chords: D, G, D, D, G, A^{sus4}, A⁷, D, G, F[#]m, Bm, Em, A⁷, D, G/D, D, D, G, D, Bm, G, A⁷, D, A⁷, D, G, F[#]m, Bm, Em, A⁷, D, G/D, D.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn:*“Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult”*

ELW 696

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895 Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922 Public Domain

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":

2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,

give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Distribution Hymn:*“Let the Whole Creation Cry”*

ELW 876

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt. Public Domain

1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.

2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts

from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

*Please stand***Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His grace.

Amen**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the
body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,

that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

ELW 414

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900

Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774 Public Domain

1 Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim,
all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Lo, the apostolic train
join your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun
through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim you
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900

Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774 Public Domain

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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2025 The Year of Listening Memory Verse.

“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...” (Isaiah 55:3a).

In this season of Hope, Council asks the congregation to pray that all people remain united in sharing with those suffering from unimaginable loss due to wildfires and severe weather, that we patiently help those struggling with day-to-day issues, and that we refocus and recommit to God's word and work at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Communion Clean-up today: Jim Kluding

Feb. 16 - Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup –

Feb. 23 –Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup - Elizabeth

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Congratulations and God blessings to Reverend Kathy Shuck who celebrates today the 30th Anniversary of her Ordination. God bless you for your caring and faithful service. God's blessings on this special day and always.

Youth event!! Most schools are off February 14th. We will go to Norwalk Rec Center and enjoy swimming at the pool. There are lifeguards on duty, and parents are not required to swim unless youth are under 6 years of age. **We will swim from 10 am to 11 am on Friday, February 14th.** Hope you can join us!

Bible Study: The Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA has a focus this year on Listening. Listening to God. Listening to Ourselves. Listening to Others. And Listening to the Community. God’s invitation to listen is a gift that permeates the Scriptures. From the Shema, **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might”** (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). To the Psalms, **“Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer”** (Psalm 61:1). To the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, **“Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock”** (Matthew 7:24). To the words the Exalted Jesus repeats to the seven churches in Revelation, **“Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches”** (Revelation 2-3). God longs for us to hear, so God invites us to listen.

We will do a five-week Bible study on listening. It begins February 3rd at 10 AM and will go for five Mondays (not including President's Day), ending on March 10th. No experience with Bible studies is necessary, this is a small-time commitment, and we hope you will join us!

Happy Birthday to Laurie Kroph and Ray Witt.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 9TH THRU FEBRUARY 23RD

Sunday February 9	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship (Souper Bowl Sunday)
Monday, February 10	10:00 am	Bible Study on Listening
Thursday, February 14	10:00 am	Youth Swim at Norwalk Rec Center
Saturday, February 15	10am-2pm	Love at the Laundromat Huron Plaza
Sunday, February 16	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship
Tuesday, February 18	10:00 am	Book Discussion Chapters 9 & 10
Thursday, February 20	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, February 23	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship



Winter “Love at the Laundromat” is a new joint outreach ministry for Zion and St. John’s. There is a need in the community for this help more than once a year. Our goal is to help struggling families by paying

for their machine use at the laundromat. We are sharing God's love in a practical way! This outreach will be at the Lakeshore Laundromat in the Huron Plaza on West Cleveland Road.

Preparations are underway and many hands will be needed. If you are available for a few hours **on Saturday, February 15** from 10am until 2pm, **please check the sign-up sheets** on the display on the table in the sanctuary. There are a wide variety of opportunities to help. Many can be done sitting down. The event is broken down into two shifts and you can work one shift, or sign up for jobs in both shifts depending on your time schedule and energy. Come and see the blessing this is to our community and joy you receive from serving with God's love. Feel free to talk with Paula Hoffman if you have concerns or questions.

We are asking for **donations** of cartons of individual packages of cookies and chips, juice boxes, and dessert cookies. Distribution of towel sets with soap or bodywash, toothbrushes and toothpaste is also planned. Please see the donations sign-up sheet. **Please place donations in the bin in the back of the sanctuary. Monetary donations may be placed in the collection plate designated for "Love at the Laundromat."**

Weekly Listening Plan

For this Year of Listening, we have invited local musicians to select a song for collective reflection each month. We encourage you to explore the monthly scripture and weekly listening practices.

We invite you to join us in these four unique listening practices each month!

February 2025

"We Believe" Newsboys

Week 2 – "We believe in Jesus Christ..."

1. Enjoy the song selection video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKhDj6laLVY&t=2s>

2. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Matthew 28:19**
3. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
4. Start a Jesu journal, where you can record your daily thoughts, scripture readings or reflections about Jesus. For your first entry, draw a cross and surround it with words that describe Jesus.