

ABOUT THE COVER

JUNE–JULY–AUGUST — QUARTER 3 2026

June 7, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The Lord is extending His hand of mercy through the prophet Hosea. Even in the midst of impending judgment, the Lord promises to lift up His people. Christ Jesus has fulfilled this promise by being raised up on the third day, having already passed through God's judgment against our sin on our behalf. Now, our Lord, in His love, extends His hand to us with the promise that He will raise us up on the Last Day.

June 14, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The Lord gave His disciples both the prayer and its answer. With the harvest ready and the laborers few, He used them to proclaim His forgiveness to the nations after Pentecost. The harvest continues to be ready today, with people ripe to hear the Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. So we also pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to share the Gospel with people ready to hear it.

June 21, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: In Christ, we bask in the glory of God's freedom. He has broken the shackles of sin on the cross, where He died once and for all time. This grace of God that gives us freedom from sin is not freedom to sin. As people baptized into Christ, our members are now His for Him to use as slaves of righteousness. But He is not a taskmaster. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13–14).

June 28, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: God's Law, written in stone and given through Moses, is "holy and righteous and good" (Romans 7:12). Sinners living under this Law deserve the death that lies under every tombstone. Yet, for the Christian, death with Christ is a different matter. He who is holy and righteous and good willingly took our trespasses against God's Commandments upon Himself, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to forgive us and rescue us from eternal death. The promise of eternal life in Him is rock solid.

July 5, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: By God's Word, we have new life by faith in Jesus. At the same time, our old sinful nature still presses in upon us. Paul knew the struggle of the Christian life. But there would be no struggle unless the new life of the Gospel had taken root by the work of the Holy Spirit. We must always go back to the source of our new life: Jesus Christ, our crucified and raised Lord, in whom there is "now no condemnation" (Romans 8:1).

July 12, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Our upward cries of "Abba, Father" stem not from fear but from the faith created in us by the Holy Spirit through the Word. We have been made the very children of God because Christ, the Son of God, who became our Brother by taking on human flesh, died on our behalf! Since we are the children of God, we are also heirs with Christ and receive what He has already accomplished: forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead. Our Father in heaven wants to hear all our prayers.

July 19, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Sometimes the heartache of this world and our weakness can leave us speechless in our prayers. So we lean on the Word that God continues to speak into our lives, trusting that the "Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Jesus has already won for us redemption and eternal life through His cross and resurrection. We wait in eager expectation for His return and the restoration of all creation.

July 26, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: God's love is not found in a mere feeling. God's love is in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's love is in Jesus, through whom all things were made. God's love is in Jesus, who is above all authorities, powers, and creation. God's love is in our Lord, who stretched out His arms on the cross to win us forgiveness. God's love is in Jesus, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. Nothing will be able to separate us from that love.

August 2, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The food that God gives us is priceless. It is worth far more than we could ever afford. Our money is no good to Him, so He gives us His food for free. We could never earn or pay for salvation with anything we have. So Christ has redeemed us not with silver or gold, but with His precious blood poured out for us on the cross (1 Peter 1:18–19). He gives us holy food and drink for free, most especially at the Lord's Supper, where He gives us His very body and blood.

August 9, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Jesus showed His divinity as the one who "trampled the waves of the sea" (Job 9:8). He also showed His mercy by calling out, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). Jesus, God in the flesh, was full of mercy toward Peter and the disciples. The Son of God is also full of mercy toward us. He showed it to us through His cross. We need not fear nor be afraid because the same Lord who said, "It is I," is present in His Word.

August 16, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: As a Gentile, the Canaanite woman knelt from the outside looking in as she begged Jesus to heal her daughter, who was possessed by a demon. Jesus tested the woman to reveal a faith that even crumbs from the Lord would provide for her deepest need. Jesus does not overlook us either. To the world, it may look like crumbs, but just a little word from Jesus works the miracle of faith to receive the salvation and eternal life that He has accomplished for us through His cross and resurrection.

August 23, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The word *therefore* always follows a reason. The first eleven chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans set the stage for Paul's exhortation to live the sanctified life God has set in place for us. We have all sinned and deserve condemnation, but salvation is the free gift accomplished by the atoning sacrifice of Christ's death on our behalf. We are justified by faith in Him. We have been united to Jesus by Baptism. We have died to sin and been raised to newness of life. It is all the gracious work of God, which is the foundation for *therefore*.

August 30, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Jesus was heading to Jerusalem, where He would suffer, be killed, and rise again. Peter attempted to lead Him in another direction, but Jesus directed him and the other disciples to follow Him and take up their own crosses. However, the cross of Jesus was His alone to bear in order to bring us forgiveness. We follow Him by the gift of faith. Following Jesus means dying to ourselves, confessing our sins, and trusting that death in Him means resurrection life.