

# ABOUT THE COVER

## SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER–NOVEMBER — QUARTER 4 2025

September 7, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** Christ's cross stands in contrast to the world, even as it shapes the lives of His disciples. We all have our own crosses to bear, and to deny them is ultimately to deny Christ. Death comes before resurrection. Yet in God's baptismal grace, we daily die to sin and are raised to the newness of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:4).

September 14, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** The crucifix can bring about many different reactions. On the one hand, it reminds us of the suffering and death that Jesus encountered upon that Roman form of execution, the horror of our sin, and God's wrath poured out upon it. On the other hand, the crucifix is, above all, a reminder of the lengths to which Jesus was willing to go to have us as His own forever. It is a symbol of His outstretched love, as He shed His own blood to forgive and save sinners.

September 21, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** The Lord declared that judgment was coming upon those in Israel who tipped the scales in their favor and dealt deceitfully with the poor. However, the scales of God's judgment cannot be rigged. Our attempts at good deeds will never outweigh our sinfulness. Yet Christ provided what Martin Luther called the greatest exchange when He took the full weight of our sin to the cross and gave us His righteousness in return.

September 28, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** In life and in death, Lazarus was comforted by the Word of the Lord, while the rich man sought only comforts that did not last. The rich man, even after death, believed that Lazarus was there to serve him and his family. His family already had everything they needed to find the comfort of God: the Law and the Prophets. We have everything we need today. Whether rich or poor, true comfort is found only in God's Word made flesh, Jesus, who has indeed risen from the dead.

October 5, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** At the end of the day, our service to the Lord can never repay Him for our salvation, let alone accomplish it. It is merely our duty to serve and obey Him. Our vocations are the arenas where the Lord works through us to accomplish His purposes. So when we think about all that we have done when the sun sets each day, all the glory goes to God, who has given us the work and, above all, has saved us by Jesus' redemptive work.

October 12, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** Paul's life was wrapped up in Jesus—in His suffering, death, and resurrected life. Christ is committed in all that He has said and done for us. Christ always remains faithful, even if we are faithless. The Jesus who knew Paul is the same Jesus who commits Himself to and loves each of us. His promise to be faithful to and love His people went all the way to the cross and will never stop.

October 19, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** If an unrighteous judge will answer the persistent pleas of a widow, we should pray continuously to the God who has chosen us and loves us in Christ. He gave Himself up for us! What a treasure we have in prayer for all times, whether good or bad. In times of uncertainty, we hold fast to the certain promises of God in Christ Jesus, trusting that God will deliver what we need. In Christ, all our prayers are heard.

October 26, 2025



Reformation Day

**About the Cover:** Martin Luther's seal symbolizes the rock-solid confession of the Reformation. It was not about Luther. It was about Christ and His cross at the center of everything. Christ enlivens our hearts, makes us holy, gives us joy, and has won eternal life for us. We have a firm foundation of refuge and strength to stand on because Christ is our rock.

November 2, 2025



All Saints' Day

**About the Cover:** It can be discouraging to see a world that does not recognize the love of Christ. All the saints of the Lord, past and present, know this reality. But we should not expect anything other than what the world and our own sin have done to Jesus. His arms were spread wide open on the cross as He took all of our sin. The resurrected Jesus still stands with His arms wide open, ready to receive repentant sinners in a world He still desires to save.

November 9, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** We are not to be deceived. While the day when our Lord will return is not known, all will know it when it comes. The rebellion before that day is nothing to fear because it is merely a sign that the end is coming. For in this rebellion, the evil of this world will be fully revealed for what it is—defeated. Indeed, Christ has already won the decisive battle over sin, death, and the devil through His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection.

November 16, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** Jesus was carried out of His disciples' sight by a cloud at His ascension. One day, He will make His powerful and glorious return in a cloud. Jesus is God's presence coming to dwell among His people for all time. Even now, Jesus dwells among us when we are gathered around His Word and Sacrament. His presence is here to deliver the benefits of what He accomplished for us by His death and resurrection: forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

November 23, 2025



Pentecost

**About the Cover:** On the day of judgment, the Lord will make no mistakes as He plucks up the righteous from among the wicked. Those who are in Christ need not fear. Our deeds are not the basis for our righteousness. Our righteousness depends only on Jesus, who gave us righteousness by dying on the cross to save our sins. Because our lives are in Him, we have been set apart as people gifted with His righteousness.

November 30, 2025



Advent

**About the Cover:** Although Jesus is the King from eternity, His earthly life was marked by humility. He was humbly born of a virgin and laid in a manger. His life of humility led to His entry on a donkey into His holy city during the week of His Passion. Christ the King willingly died a humiliating death upon the cross, but on the third day, He rose. One day, the King will come again. On that day, He will return in the fullness of His glory.