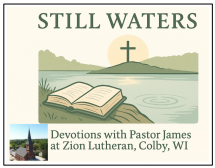
Date: January 18, 2026
Suggested Reading: John 1:35-42
Text: 1 Peter 5:7
Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.



Walking the Harder Road

We spend a good deal of life choosing paths. Some mornings it is as simple as deciding which road will get us to work faster. Other days the choices weigh heavier, how to spend limited time, where to place trust, what to hold tightly, and what to release. The easier road often looks smoother, wider, and safer at first glance. Faith rarely does.

Scripture records ordinary people at work when Jesus calls them. Nets lie at their feet. Plans are already in motion. Following Jesus means leaving visible security behind. We prefer control. We cling to what we can measure, manage, and store away. Even generosity can feel risky when budgets tighten and futures feel uncertain. Our hearts resist surrender.

Jesus does not call us into uncertainty alone. He walks ahead. He carries what we cannot. At the cross, the road looks foolish, even reckless. Yet there Christ secures forgiveness, life, and salvation for us. The narrow way is not earned by effort or courage. It is given. In Holy Baptism, God already placed us on this road. Each day He invites us to walk it again, trusting His promise rather than our instincts. As Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism, God still provides daily bread, even when we cannot see how.

We can walk the harder road with confidence because Christ already walked it for us.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, keep our eyes fixed on You when easier paths tempt us. Teach us to trust Your care, today and always. Amen.

Thought for the Day:
Faith may feel risky, yet Christ proves faithful. The road He sets before us always leads home.

Hymn: LSB 688 – “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake

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