

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; July 26-31, '21

Mon Jeremiah 23:1-6 God has a big concern on His heart—and it's about shepherds (that is, clergymen) and their sheep (that is, God's people). Who has the courage to denounce unfaithful clergy, Bible-bending theologians, or the televangelist who masquerades as a servant of God but is not? Jeremiah had the courage (1-2), and God rewarded him with the vision of Jesus, who supersedes all other shepherds as the *LORD, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS* (5-6).

Tues Mark 6:30-34 These under-shepherds of Jesus were tired from weeks of ministering to wandering or lost sheep—and they needed a day off (31-32). However, other wandering sheep turned up, seeking shepherding, and they figured out how to connect with Jesus (33). *Jesus was moved with loving compassion for them, so He began to teach them many things* they should know about themselves, about the true God, and about His own mission.

Wed Ephesians 2:13-22 Christians of Jewish background had been brought up to believe that God didn't want non-Jews in His kingdom. That was false doctrine, of course, and God authorized Paul to explain it to the Ephesian church. God does love (and save) Gentiles (13), and He intends Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles to bury their background prejudices (15-18) and enjoy what God has put into their foreground (19-22).

Thurs Psalm 23 We understand the imagery—Jesus is our Shepherd, who attends to all our spiritual needs (1-3), keeps us in His protective care in threatening circumstances (4-5), and showers blessings upon us. [When our cup runs over, we drink from the saucer.] As sure as God is sure, His goodness and mercy keep close track on us from here to eternity.

Fri 1 Peter 2:13-17 We regularly face situations that challenge us to behave as God's children rather than misbehave. Let's take it to heart that *we submit ourselves to every ordinance of men*, observing traffic regulations when we are out driving, obeying the boss at our job, following the building codes if we are constructing, doing our school work honestly, and following the local health ordinances, too. We do so because God expects it of us.

Sat John 10 Does submitting ourselves to every ordinance make us sheep? Well, that's confusing cause and effect; Jesus claims us as His sheep, so we are His sheep. We recognize the sound of His voice and follow Him (4, 27); He knows each of us personally, and we know Him (14, 27); He did not desert us but laid down His life in order to grant us eternal life (28); He keeps a tight grip on us so that nothing/nobody can snatch us away from Him or from our Father in heaven (28-29). Now then, since God has seen fit to call us His sheep and members of His flock, we wear the badge proudly. Yeah!

July 25, 2021

Trinity 9/VBS Sunday

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Landon Goodwin

CHILDREN of the HEAVENLY FATHER



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 78:1-7

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: VBS Children Sing "Children of the Heavenly Father"

1. Children of the Heavenly Father Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

3. Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4. Though He giveth or He taketh God His children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from *conception*. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!

✠ Announcements ✠

VBS was held this last week with 23 children coming throughout the week. Thank you to all who taught, volunteered, and donated this week!

Pastor and family will be out of town for a few weeks on their family vacation for the wedding of Nathan Rodebaugh and Kendra Naumann in Eau Claire, WI on August 7th. If you need to reach out to Pastor for any reason during this time, please do not hesitate to do so. We will be having the regular church services as scheduled, led by various laymen.

✠ **Aug. 1 & 8:** Pastor Out-of-town
✠ **Aug. 8:** Orlando Service 8 am
✠ **Aug. 15:** Communion Service

Offering Envelope Funds As a reminder of the various funds that appear on your offering envelopes and their uses: **Home Funds** are offerings that go to support the work of our local congregation. **Synodical Funds** are offerings that go to support the work of our synod as a whole. **Home Operating Budget** – The recurring expenses to keep the church and school running, such as payroll, insurance, maintenance, etc. This is our most used fund. **Building Fund** – Special large ticket items such as air conditioner replacement or plumbing repairs. **Property Improvement Fund** – Special large ticket improvement items for church buildings. **ILC Scholarship Fund** – Tuition assistance for children of church members to attend Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI. **Tuition Grant Fund** – Tuition assistance for children to attend our own school here at Immanuel. **Benevolence Fund** – Used to help families (primarily church families) with any special needs. **CLC Offerings (Missions)** – Support for Immanuel Lutheran College operations and CLC Mission endeavors. **ILC Building Fund** – Supports new or updated buildings at Immanuel Lutheran College. **CLC Student Aid Fund** – Tuition assistance for students who attend Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. **Other** – All other funds not listed above, such as Memorials or Petty Cash or Kinship.

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. **Greg Tincher** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Rudy Enriquez** is receiving treatment for throat cancer. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. **Liz Hartmann** is home recovering from recent surgery. **Sharon Brown** has been receiving radiation treatments for cancer for several weeks.

Last Week: WH – 47

Total Offering = \$3,049.25

Gen. = \$2,229.25 | Prop. = \$100 | Convention = \$650 | Memorial = \$20 | ILC Schol. = \$50

Cleaner (7/31): Bernthal | **Acolyte (8/1):** Grant Bernthal

SERMON – Matthew 5:38-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Like Father, Like Children

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

- ☞** *♪* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- ☞** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- ☞** *♪* Amen, amen, a – men.

INTROIT

Ps. 78:1ff

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- ☞** Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- ☞** I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- ☞** Things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.
- ☞** We will not hide them from our children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD,
- ☞** And His might, and the wonders that He has done.
- ☞** So that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD

WS p.13

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,

Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,

Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37-51 ³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" ³⁸ Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, ³⁹ and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. ⁴¹ And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine

cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." ⁴⁸ When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. ⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

G **♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.