

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 6-11, '21

Mon Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8 If we are tempted to close our ears when God lays down the law, we should receive a jolt like this one—sharp and pointed. But why would anyone **add** to God's Word? To create loopholes: "Yes, God's Word is final—except in this case" or "God's Word changes according to changing conditions."

Tues Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23 Self-righteous Jews figured that God had short-changed them, so they added the *traditions of the elders* on top of God's Law. Washing hands is fine, but it does not wash away the filth of *evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders*, etc. So, God does it His way: He cleans our hearts with repentance and faith in Jesus as our Substitute.

Wed Ephesians 6:10-20 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" is not a cliché but serious business. We strap on the bullet-proof vest Jesus has crafted for us (14), we buckle up our combat boots (15), and with God's Word we deflect Satan's oncoming missiles (16). "Fight the good fight with all thy might; Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right!"

Thurs Psalm 119C Is it possible that a Christian loves God's Law? Yes, for the child of God knows that his Father wants to protect him from harm, just as STOP and YIELD protect motorists from collisions. We appreciate *God's Word, commandments, judgments, statutes, and testimonies* because that's how God provides direction down our highway of life, to avoid potholes and steer clear of oncoming traffic. Thank You, Lord God, for Your holy Word!

Fri John 15:9-17 We love Him because He first loved us; we abide in God's love as we are bonded to His Word/precepts; and loving one another reflects Jesus' love—strong enough to sacrifice Himself for us. That's how we face our sinfulness, and that's how we will face God on Judgment Day.

Sat 2 Peter 3:10-13 Will we ever get to the point that we can bypass "And forgive us our trespasses"? No, not in this world; Jesus knew it, and we know it. That's why this world with its sinfulness (and our share in this world) must be burned away—as metal is refined/purified by boiling away the dross (Psalm 119:119, Malachi 3:3). The world we live in is mortal, subject to decay and death, whereas God's new world will be immortal, rising out of the ashes of fire and death. It will be a world where righteousness and holiness are totally at home and will preoccupy us (13). *According to His promise, we look for His new heavens and a new Earth in which righteousness dwells.* Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen!

September 5, 2021

Trinity 15

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Grant Bernthal

Wash me
AND I SHALL BE
whiter than
snow



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 34:1-8

¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. ¹³⁰The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. ¹³¹I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. ¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. ¹³³Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. ¹³⁴Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. ¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #27:1-4

"Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul!"

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- 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!

INTROIT

Ps. 51:2,7,10-12

- P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
C **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- P Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
C **Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
- P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

In addition to the Biblical testimony that Mark was a close friend and companion of Peter's, some of the ancient Church Fathers (eg. Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis, Eusebius of Caesarea) who were contemporaries of some of the Apostles described Mark as an interpreter of Peter, writing down whatever Peter told him. Others indicate that, having heard the Gospel from the mouth of Peter, Mark was implored to write down the doctrines of Christ in order to preserve them for all people to hear. And thus, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel according to Mark was written.

Character of the Book: The first verse of Mark's Gospel reads, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1) Thus, from the outset, he leaves little guesswork over what this book would be about or who this Jesus was. However, this is the last time in the Gospel that Mark tells the readers what *he* believes about Jesus. Throughout the rest of the book, he simply shows the reader Jesus' actions and Jesus' words and then relates how the original witnesses reacted to these things. Mark's is a Gospel of action, moving rapidly from one event to the next, laying out the irrefutable proofs that support Mark's opening statement, "Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

One interesting element of Mark's Gospel is the noted impetuosity of the Apostle Peter displaying itself right and left. He includes various incriminating details about Peter's betrayal of Jesus (cf. Mark 14:54, 68) that the other Gospel writers pass over in silence, not dwelling upon the shameful details of Peter's denial. Understanding that Mark is writing using the first-hand narrative of Peter and under Peter's supervision, this paints a picture of Peter acting in genuine repentance and calling attention to his own weaknesses and sin without excuse. What a beautiful testimony to the grace and forgiveness of Christ! Peter does not feel the need to hide from his sins, for he knows his sins have been hidden in Christ!

Structure of the Book: The Gospel of Mark is written in three acts. The first act takes place in Galilee (chapters 1-8a), where the main question is one asked by the people to whom Jesus is ministering: "Who is this Jesus?" The second act takes place on the way to Jerusalem (chapters 8b-10), where the main question is one asked by the disciples of Jesus: "Who is this Jesus?" The final act takes place in Jerusalem (chapters 11-16), where the answers are given by Christ—the paradoxical answer that He has become King through very unexpected means (His suffering and death and resurrection).

CLC Call News Seminary graduate Nick Naumann has **received** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Louise Mayhew has **accepted** the call to Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller, Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, is still **considering** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Greg Tincher** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and suffered a recent fall. Friend of Immanuel **Monique Desrochers** is hospitalized with COVID but is improving. **Craig and Kay Owings** are both at home with COVID, but their condition is improving. Craig had been hospitalized this week. **Liz Hartmann** continues to recover from eye surgery, but is still having various health problems. Please keep her in your prayers.

Last Week: WH – 29

Total Offering = \$1,095

Cleaner (9/11): Ream | **Acolyte (9/12):** Hayden Morris

Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark

About the Author: The Gospel according to Mark was written by the one after whom it is named, Mark, also called John Mark in Scripture. Mark was not one of the 12 Apostles, but he was closely associated with two of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. He was a companion and close friend of Paul's whom he accompanied on his First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:5, Colossians 4:10). He was also a close friend of Peter's, and perhaps even had come to the Christian faith through the ministry of Peter, as Peter refers to Mark as "my son." (1 Peter 5:13)

During his missionary travels as an attendant to the Apostle Paul and his fellow missionary Barnabas, but during the travels departs the company and returns to Jerusalem. (cf. Acts 13:13) Why? We do not know. But it is clear that Mark's desertion upsets the Apostle Paul, so much so, in fact, that when Barnabas [Mark's cousin (cf. Colossians 4:10)] implores that they bring Mark once more on their Second Missionary Journey, Paul refuses, and he and Barnabas split ways. Paul takes young pastor Timothy on his journey instead. However, it is evident that Mark and Paul mended their relationship as during Paul's imprisonment later, he instructs Timothy, "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." (2 Tim. 4:11 ESV)

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD

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:

☐ O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

Lord, to whom
 else shall we go?



OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9 "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?⁹ "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children.

EPISTLE READING – Ephesians 6:10-20 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.



☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es
 tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your
 bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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!

HYMN: WS #764

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

✠ **Announcements** ✠

Welcome! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the hallway near the entrance. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach. Where and when? Your convenience.

- ✠ **Sept. 5:** Communion Service
- ✠ **Sept. 5:** Bible Class and Sunday School Begin
- ✠ **Sept. 5:** Bds of Ed & Elders
- ✠ **Sept. 12:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ✠ **Sept. 12:** Bible Class & SS 9 am

Bible Class & Sunday School began this weekend at 9:00 am. Please be sure to schedule this important hour for growth in God's Word into your Sunday mornings. For the next several months, we will be studying the Gospel of Mark in Bible Class. If you miss a class, my plan is to record weekly recaps and post them on YouTube on Sunday evenings.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated.

P Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.

C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSIO OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON – Mark 7:14-23 And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." ¹⁶ ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Jesus is the Solution for Your Pollution

- I. Defiled from the inside out
- II. Cleansed from the outside in

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

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

- C** **♪ 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.**

HYMN: TLH #373 “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”



– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –
Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:



OFFERING HYMN: TLH #788:1 “Lord, You Love...”

- C** **♪ Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.**

GENERAL PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts!
- C** **We lift them up to the Lord!**

The Order of Holy Communion



- P** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:
- C** **♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
 blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
 part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
 tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.