

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 13-18, '21

Mon Isaiah 35:1-7a is part of a larger unit; we already know other chapters of His-story. Idolaters are in for punishment (ch. 34), while God's people receive chastening to strengthen them (1-4) for their earthly pilgrimage. God promised to invigorate ancient Israel for a new life (5-6) in a regenerated country (7)--which sounds much like a preview of heaven.

Tues Mark 7:31-37 In due time, Isaiah's prophecy came to pass, for God sent His Son down to our planet--providing visual and audible proof that God had not forsaken humanity (31-35); supreme proof would come from His empty tomb on Easter morning. *He has done all things well* reads like an epitaph on a headstone, and Jesus deserved that honor more than anyone else.

Wed James 1:17-27 From the view at the top, we are *a kind of first fruits of His creatures*--which is a picturesque way of saying that God claims us first and foremost. On the receiving end, we are given thought and speech—to speak up as God's defense witnesses. No sense getting angry about it (19-20) or using gutter language on the witness stand (21)--and our actions speak louder than our words (22-23). In sum, let's keep an eye on our own failings (23-24) while we get busy with things God has given us to do (25-27).

Thurs Psalm 146 We don't have to be Jewish to join the psalmist in praising God, for as long as we have lungs and voices, we will add our praise to God (2), for our time of grace is NOW, not later (3-4). We have good reason to praise Father, Creator of heaven and Earth, CEO over planet Earth, and the Healer of souls festering with sin (8-9). Forever more (10).

Fri Mark 8:11-21 is not a discourse about home-baked bread, but a warning against home-baked false doctrine (11-15). The disciples were slow to catch the drift (16), so Jesus spelled it out (17-20)--that He was more interested in the sourdough of false doctrine than in tasty bread, and so are we. God's bread suits our taste, and we pray that we shall never tire of dining on it, snacking on it, and serving it wherever we can—both to ourselves and to others at our table. God's Word is heavenly manna.

Sat James 1:25 What is meant with the *perfect law of liberty*, anyway? Well, since Christ has freed us from Satan's domination (and God's condemnation), we are free as birds to serve whomever we wish. We are free to serve God and the impulses of His Holy Spirit. That's not only swell, it's perfect! Being at liberty to choose whom to serve – is a wonderful way to live. May God bless and keep us, smile upon us, and give us peace of conscience while we serve Him as best we can, come what may!

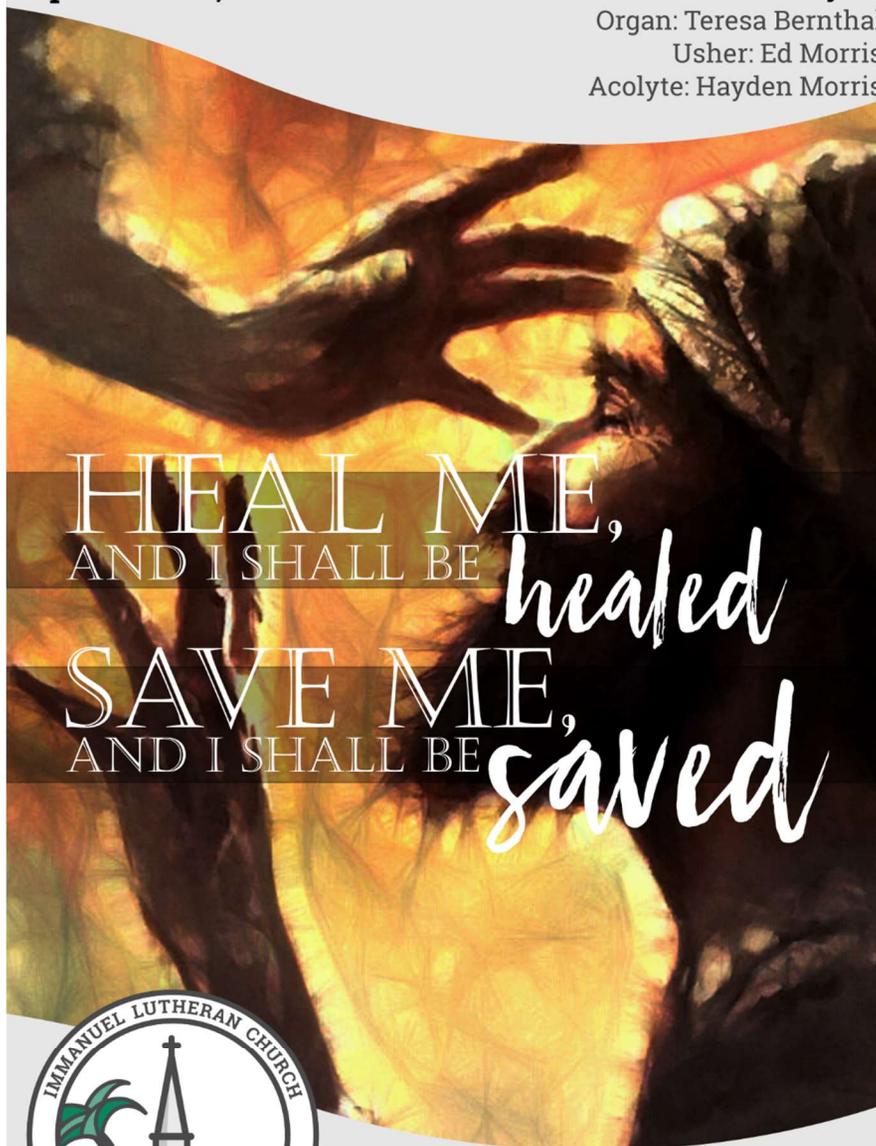
September 12, 2021

Trinity 16

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 146:3ff

³ Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. ⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. ⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; ⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

C Congregation

Hymn: TLH #19:1,3,5,6 "All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

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

C ♪ A - - - men.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ A - - - men.

CLC Call News

Becky McKenney **has returned** the call to Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. <> Michael Sprengeler **has returned** the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, as well as to Zion Lutheran Church, Ipswich, SD. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller, Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, **has returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Seminary graduate Nick Naumann **is still considering** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, **is still considering** the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY.

✠ **Sept. 12:** Orlando Service 8 am
✠ **Sept. 12:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a
✠ **Sept. 19:** Trustees & Council
✠ **Sept. 19:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a
✠ **Sept. 26:** Orlando Service 8 am
✠ **Sept. 28-30:** SE Pastoral Conference in Cincinnati

Saint Gone Home: Monique Desrochers While not a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, many of you have crossed paths with and come to know Monique Desrochers through the years. After she and her husband Christopher sent their daughters to Immanuel Lutheran School from Kindergarten through 8th Grade, she continued to be extremely involved and supportive of our school in the years since. She put her faith into action by filling in wherever she saw a need and was greatly appreciated by the staff of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. The Lord saw fit to call His daughter home to heaven Wednesday morning after a month-long stay in the hospital fighting COVID. A funeral service for Monique will be held next Saturday, September 18th, at 4 pm. The service will be held at Winter Haven First Church Of The Nazarene, 560 3rd St SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880.

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 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 – 40

Total Offering = \$5,663.50

General = \$1468.50 | Tuition = \$2125 | Property = \$260 | KINSHIP = \$150
ILC Schol. = \$50 | CLC SAF = \$10 | Kuehne Mem. = \$100 | School = \$1500

Cleaner (9/18): Bernthal | **Acolyte (9/19):** Maxwell Kuehne

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

C ♪ We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

P 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.

C ♪ Amen, amen, a - men.

HYMN: LSB #849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

✠ **Announcements** ✠

Bible Class & Sunday School began last weekend at 9:15 am and continued this morning. 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, weekly recaps will be posted on YouTube on Sunday or Monday.

INTROIT

Ps. 28:1ff

- P** The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- C** To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
- P** Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
- C** **Blessèd be the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.**
- P** The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

VERSE OF THE DAY *Psalm 147:2-3*

P Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

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

G ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G ♪ A - - - men.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON – Isaiah 35:4-7a Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON – Acts 3:1-10 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

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.

Hymn: TLH #360

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

SERMON – Mark 7:31-37 Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Jesus—The True Faith-Healer

I. He CAN heal our bodies—

II. He ALWAYS heals our souls!

OFFERTORY

G ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #388

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"