

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 20-25, '21

Mon Isaiah 50:4-10 Jesus Messiah is speaking of Himself (in His human nature) as ready and willing to follow the grand plan of salvation—including being brutalized during His last hours as our suffering Savior (6-7). In spite of all this, He confidently affirms that He feels vindicated by His Father (8-9). Whoever among us reveres the LORD enough to submit to the voice/Word of Jesus is on the right track; let's keep it up (10)! God help us!

Tues Mark 8:27-35 Obviously, the right track starts at the feet of Jesus. Note the progression from what *others* see in Jesus—to what *you* see in Him (27-29). Do you/I see the necessity of Jesus suffering many things, being rejected, suffering under Pontius Pilate, being crucified, and rising again? Jesus, God's Messiah, proves Himself in our own heart before we go out to convince others (30) of His Self-sacrificial mission (31). Yes, self-sacrifice was necessary for Him (32-33), and it's the crux of our lives, too (34-35).

Wed James 2:1-5,8-10,14-18 Do we warmly welcome the shabby newcomer into our fellowship, while we fawn over the big wheel (1-5)? That may seem a small point, but it takes only a pinpoint to deflate a large balloon (8-10). In another analogy, faith-life is a divine flashlight, working to enlighten our path; however, if our faith/light isn't working or functioning, it's most likely due to a dead battery (14-18).

Thurs Psalm 116 *I love the LORD because . . . places effect before cause* (1-2)—which is not all that unusual. Next, the psalmist fills in the background of his needs satisfied by God's good-natured generosity (3-11), and then ends with the impact which God's mercy has produced in/on him (12-14). It's no wonder that his heart bubbles over with pleasure (16-19)!

Fri Mark 8:36-38 Jesus minced no words about earthly, affluent life and death/losing one's soul. What a balance sheet (36-37)! Note that He puts worldly things into the loss column/debit side of the ledger, while He says little about the credit side—but we know it holds the surplus of His precious blood. Let's not be embarrassed about God's book-keeping (38).

Sat James 2:19-26 deserves attention, for Jesus' brother is explaining that *faith* is both vertical (between us and God) and horizontal (between us and our neighbor). To illustrate, a *faith* that doesn't work is like a battery that's dead—and needs recharging (20). It makes sense that when the soul leaves the body, that body is dead—and a dead body on display in its casket may be a fine-looking body, but it's still a corpse (26). Same with a *faith* that's dead; cosmetics may disguise the corpse, but it stinks, anyway. Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith through Thy Word! Amen.

September 19, 2021

Trinity 17

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne

THEN I CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD:
"O LORD, I PRAY, *deliver* MY SOUL!"



1449 34th St. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
winterhavenlutheran.org

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor (414) 534-7279
Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145
Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 116

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. ² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" ⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. ⁶ The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. ⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; ⁹ I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁰ I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"; ¹¹ I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars." ¹² What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. ¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷ I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

C Congregation

Hymn: TLH #394

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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

C A - - - men.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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: TLH #395:1-4, 7-8

"O God, Thou Faithful God"

✠ 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 evenings, and I would encourage you to tune in there.

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

A Brief Memorial Service will be held next Sunday, September 26th, near the conclusion of the regular service, for our departed brother and sister in Christ, Bill Issitt III and his mother Loye Issitt.

CLC Call News Pastor Ben Libby of Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, **has accepted** the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, **has received** 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.

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 – 18 Orlando – 15 **Total Offering = \$2,106.25**

General = \$1,146.25 | Property Improve. = \$310 | ILC Scholarship = \$50


Cleaner (9/25): Naumann | **Acolyte (9/26):** Seth Bernthal

was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.⁷ When Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern-- the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate--⁸ Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king,⁹ "My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city."¹⁰ Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, "Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."¹¹ So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe in the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes.¹² Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, "Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes." Jeremiah did so.¹³ Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

The Lord Pulls You Out of the Mud

- I. The sinful world wants to see you sink
- II. The Lord's salvation is closer than you think

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: WS #723 "What Wondrous Love is This"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

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

- G**  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.

INTROIT

Ps. 31:14-16, 24

- P** Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!
- G** But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."
- P** My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
- G** Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!
- P** Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!

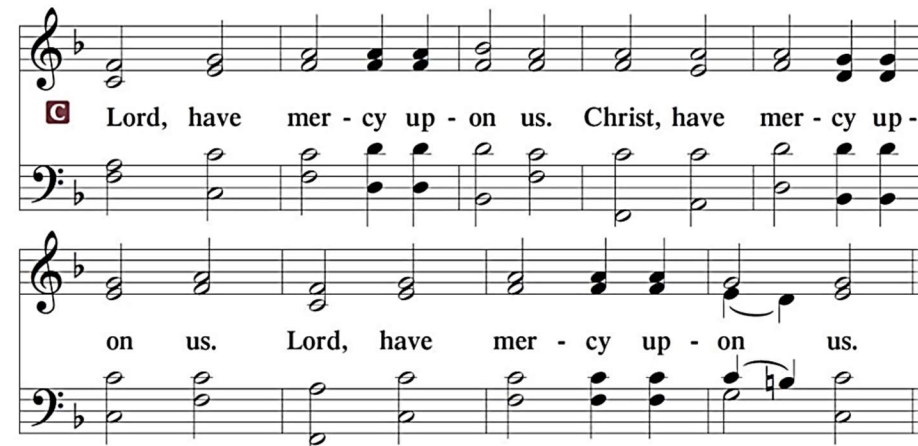


G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

- P** Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia.



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

☞ **♪ 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!**

☞ Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **♪ A - - - men.**

GOSPEL LESSON – Mark 8:27-35 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"²⁸ And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 Peter 4:12-19 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.¹⁷ For

it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

CONFESSIO 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.

Hymn: TLH #413:1,2,5,6

"I Walk in Danger All the Way"

SERMON – Jeremiah 38:1-13 Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people:² "Thus says the LORD: He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live. He shall have his life as a prize of war, and live."³ Thus says the LORD: This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and be taken."⁴ Then the officials said to the king, "Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm."⁵ King Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you."⁶ So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there