

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Oct. 18-23, '21

Mon Amos 5:10-15 has the most intense admonition to be found anywhere in the Bible. Now, who should *seek the LORD and live*? People sliding into immoral muck and religious heresy, whose personal and national values were spiraling down into a black hole (10-13). To them Amos made this urgent appeal: *seek good and not evil, that you may live; it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant who return to God not just in theory but in genuine, unconditioned repentance. It can happen.*

Tues Mark 10:17-27 The wealthy fellow arrived cheerfully but departed disheartened. He seemed eager for more homework, for he was faithful in his daily duties, but Jesus' new assignment was very challenging. Now then, since graduation (to heaven) was still out of his reach, Jesus in compassion prescribed a task that would open his eyes. Was the fellow dedicated enough to accept and fulfill the tough assignment? For him, it was impossible, but God is still able to save those who are unable.

Wed Hebrews 3:1-6 Jesus never fudged on His assignment but was flawless. Since He never cut corners, He is 100% dependable, and as long as *we hold fast to Him*, we enjoy His accomplishment *firm to the end. Our High Priest was faithful to His Father's assignment*, which puts even Moses in the shade. Jesus is superior by reason of being the Son, having jurisdiction over God's family circle, including you and me. Jesus has made it happen.

Thurs Psalm 90 Moses, trusty servant in God's household, praises God for His timelessness (1-2), in contrast to the timeliness of human life (3-6). As for ourselves, *all our days have passed away in God's wrath*—whether 70, 80, or more years—*it is soon cut off, and we fly away*. That's why we plead with God to *have compassion on us* and allow us to get the big picture—the *beauty of the LORD our God. The work of our hands follows.*

Fri Mark 10:23-25 Are kingdom of heaven and *kingdom of God* identical? Right after Jesus dealt with the rich fellow who wanted to enter eternal life, He laid it out to His disciples, using the term *kingdom of God* (three times). Actually, being subject to God's dominion while living on Earth is necessary and proper prelude to living in the kingdom of God in heaven. God's kingdom has one foot on Earth and the other in Heaven.

Sat Hebrews 3:7-4:9 presents the fatal consequences of being a disbeliever of God's promises—to jolt us out of any complacency about the inheritance God has waiting for us. God has promised eternal *rest* to those who seek it via Jesus, and His invitation is still on-line. So, let's take the warning to heart and also trust God to have a *resting place* reserved for us. See you there.

October 17, 2021

Trinity 21

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Mark Moorehead

Acolyte: Hayden Morris



WE GIVE
THEE BUT
THINE OWN



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 MEDITATION

Ps. 90:12-17

¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. ¹³ Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor
C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #411:1,2,4,6

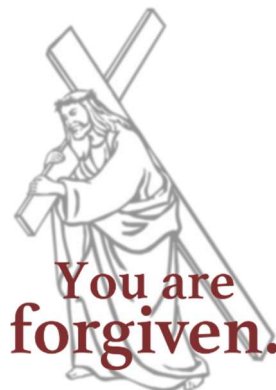
"From Eternity, O God"

- 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** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**



What do you need?

Would the list fill a page or more? Would it read something like this: I need vacation time, a fatter paycheck, new clothes for fall, a better car, less debt, a bigger house, fun things to do, etc.? If we have all these unfulfilled "needs," what does that say about God? The implication would be that God is pretty stingy when it comes to His care for us. He is the creator and owner of all things. He Himself needs nothing. *"For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills"* (Ps. 50:10). So then why would He withhold all these things which we "need"?

The truth is that God is not at all stingy. His love and generosity are limitless. But it's also true that we often confuse "wants" with "needs." Needs are things essential to life and wellbeing. We need air, food, and water to survive. Wants are desires that we have. You may want a Starbucks pumpkin spice chai latte this morning, but it's hardly a need.

The Lord is generous and loving. He says, *"Ask and it will be given to you."* He promises to provide for all our needs in the very best way. Our greatest need by far is to have guilt wiped off our record so that we can be at peace with God and be heirs of heaven. God freely forgives us in Christ. *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool"* (Is. 1:18).

At the same time, we have physical, earthly needs. Jesus teaches us to pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* God who feeds the sparrows promises to give His children their daily necessities. We don't have to feel deprived. Paul writes, *"Godliness with contentment is great gain...But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that"* (1 Tim. 6:6).

God is not stingy. He provides for all our needs and gives us so much more. But He doesn't always give us everything we want. That's a good thing. Sometimes we want things which would be harmful, rather than beneficial. In a child's eyes a triple scoop of chocolate ice cream may seem like the best thing in the world at the moment, but Mom and Dad may decide otherwise. Solomon wisely prayed, *"Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you...Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God"* (Prov. 30:8-9). Trust that along with what God has given you, His withholding of other things is evidence of His goodness.

What do we truly need? Look around. The Lord has supplied it all. Our forgiveness and salvation are sure in Christ. The Lord who fed 5,000 men with only a handful of bread and fish generously gives us our daily bread too. If anything is missing, He says, *"Ask, and it will be given to you."*

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

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.

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #400

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

✠ Announcements ✠

Offering Statements have been delivered by our Financial Secretary to your church mailboxes four times per year for quite some time. At the voters' meeting last Sunday, it was decided that for most people one-time per year offering statements is adequate, and for that reason, you can expect your offering statements to arrive only yearly. If you would like to still receive your statements quarterly, please speak with Pastor Rodebaugh or Paul Kuehne.

✠	Oct. 17: Trustees & Council
✠	Oct. 24: Orlando Service 8 am
✠	Oct. 24: Bible Class & SS 9:15a
✠	Oct. 31: Reformation Service

CLC Call News Pastor David Ude of Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI, *is still considering* the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, *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. Craig and Kay Owings are both at home and are still recovering from their bouts with COVID. Liz Hartmann continues to recover from eye surgery, but is still having various health problems. Gail Sedberry has been struggling with various health issues lately, please pray that her doctors will be able to give her a diagnosis.

Last Week: WH – 23 Orlando – 13 **Total Offering = \$1,351.50**
General = \$1,321.50 | Property Improvement = \$5 | Benevolence = \$25

Cleaner (10/23): Bernthal | **Acolyte (10/24):** Seth Bernthal

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

G **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

INTROIT

Ps. 112:1ff

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

P Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!

G **Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.**

P Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

G **It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.**

P For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Amos 5:6, 7, 10-15 "For Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, ⁷ O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! ¹⁰ They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. ¹¹ Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant

vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins-- you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. ¹³ Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. ¹⁴ Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵ Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

EPISTLE READING – Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses-- as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

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 #430:1,4,7-8

"What Is the World to Me"

SERMON – Mark 10:17-27 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."



"The Lord Wants to Separate You from Your Money"

- I. In order to free you from the crippling service of self
- II. In order to set you apart for an unencumbered service of Christ

HYMN: TLH #421

"Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #788:1

"Lord, You Love..."

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.