

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 29-Dec. 4, '21

Mon Jeremiah 29:1-23 lays out a readable survey of some history. Because the Jewish nation had not heeded God (15-19), He put them (20-23) into detention for 70 years (!) in a foreign land where He expected them to settle in (4-7) but not be taken-in by crazy talk (8-9). Let them rather keep faith that God would manage to get them back to Palestine (10-11), and they could start in again where they had left off (12-14). Lesson: God has ways and means to humble a nation that disses Him.

Tues Luke 19:28-40 It was not a grand entry and would have escaped notice except for two loud announcements. First, the miracle which befitted Jesus' lowly service on our behalf (28-35), and then the disciples' broadcast of Him as *the LORD, their Righteousness* (38)--per Ps. 118:26 (37-38). Those who did not see Jesus that way (39-40) still live among us today.

Wed 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Fast-forward to a missionary's gush of praise for God's work in a foreign land (9-10), followed by his prayer for God to make these converts *increase and abound in love to one another* (and to everyone else, too), so that God would *establish* (fortify and solidify) them to hold their ground in God-pleasing conduct – as they looked ahead to the *coming* [Advent] *of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints*.

Thurs Jeremiah 33:14-16 After God downloaded the bad news that He was about to punish Judah (the South) for the evils they had done to Him, God gave Jeremiah (and all repentant sinners) a bright light at the end of the tunnel. It's Jesus, of course. We knew it all the time because God has told us so more than once; it's the truth which the Apostle Paul was getting across in Rom. 1:17 and 10:4, in 1 Corinthians 1:30; the truth which other apostles emphasized, as in Jeremiah 23:5-6 and 2 Peter 1:1.

Fri Luke 21:25-36 "It's darkest just before dawn" has some truth to it—for that's the scenario prior to Jesus' second coming/advent (25-28). *Look up* (not downcast) and *lift up your heads* (to receive a blessing) *because your redemption is drawing near*. How about an illustration (29-30)? People get drunk and carouse in futile efforts to escape their anxieties, and absorption in life's problems is a distraction from God's perfect escape plan (27-28).

Sat 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 There's a lot of misinformation about Jesus' return; here's the straight of it: Jesus will *descend from heaven with much shouting, the voice of an archangel, and trumpet fanfare* loud enough to wake the dead; God's people will arise from their graves to join up with the rest of us, and in grand assembly *we will meet Jesus* and float up to heaven. Heaven is my *home*. Heaven is *my* home. Heaven *is* my home.

November 28, 2021

Advent 1

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal

Hosanna
save us, we pray!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN, FL

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

Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

C Congregation

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #55

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

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!

Lord, to whom
else shall we go?



another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.

Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results. The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin.

That is the glorious, biblical proclamation found in "The Quemapas Carol," which we'll be singing through Advent. We are blessed to hear in it the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled." This is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ.

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. **Liz Hartmann** has been having issues with her eyes for some time. After visiting a specialist in Miami this past week, it was discovered that she has a tumor behind her left eye that is malignant melanoma. She will be surgery next week. Please pray for Liz, that she may return to health as the Lord wills.

Last Week: WH – 39 Thanksgiving – 24 **Total Offering = \$3,859.50**

General = \$2,213.75 | Property Improvement = \$1,100 | Tuition = \$1,025
CLC Missions = \$435.75 | ILC Scholarship = \$75

Cleaner (12/5): Rodebaugh | **Acolyte (12/6):** Maxwell Kuehne

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.

SERMON HYMN: TLH #95:1-4,7 "Savior of the Nations, Come"



– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:



OFFERING: TLH #442:2 "Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us"

- C** *♪* Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

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.

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #222 "Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious"

✠ Announcements ✠

Advent Series "God's own Son is born a child ... God the Father is reconciled." What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws near to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw near to the harsh reality of

- ✠ Nov. 28: Orlando Service 8a
- ✠ Nov. 28: Bible Class & SS 9:15a
- ✠ Dec. 1: Midweek Advent 6:30p
- ✠ Dec. 5: Elders & Council Mtgs.
- ✠ Dec. 5: Communion Service
- ✠ Dec. 5: Bible Class & SS 9:15a

broken families and friendships. The sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others. We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by

INTROIT

Ps. 89:14-16, 18; Zech. 9:9b

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

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
- C** Who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord?
- P** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- C** Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
- P** Who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.
- C** For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 64:1-9 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence-- ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge-- ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you-- ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

C **♫ 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.

HYMN: WS #705

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

SERMON – Mark 11:1-10 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Savior of the Nations, Come

I. In power yet with humility

II. In glory yet with mercy