

September 11, 2022

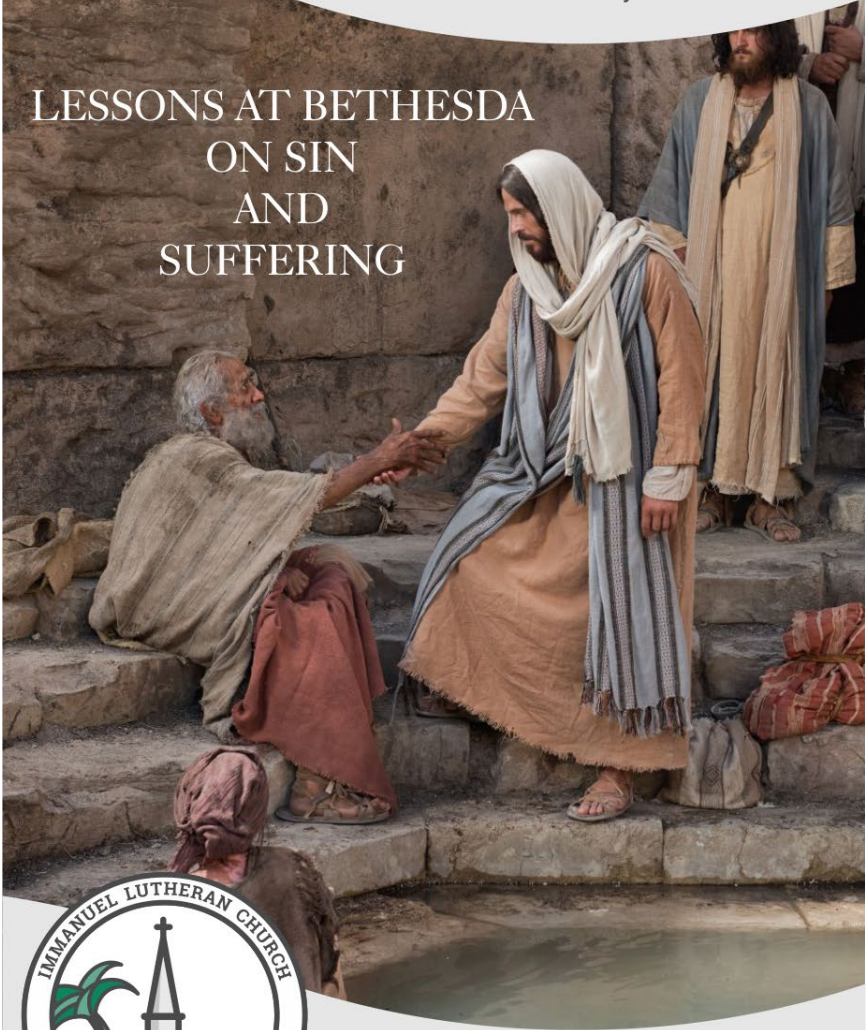
14th Sunday of Pentecost

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Joe Weller

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal

LESSONS AT BETHESDA
ON SIN
AND
SUFFERING



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

Vance Fossum, Pastor (803) 556-3161
Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145
Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

PRE-SERVICE WELCOME

“The LORD is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in mercy.
He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
– Psalm 103:8-10

We welcome all in the name of Jesus Christ!

Peter advises us Christians: “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.” (1 Pet. 5:6,7) In the midst of our suffering we are to be sure that it is the will of our Savior to lift us up after He has made us low. Therefore, we should not focus on our suffering, but look away from it in hope.

God does not look upon us the way a bystander views a scene or an event of which he is not a part. Our Lord always has us in His heart and looks upon our afflictions with the utmost interest. He is not detached from our suffering, but firmly attached as a mother to her nursing infant, or a father to his most helpless child. So we should let Him have all our cares, and cast our every burden upon Him with every confidence that He intends for us only the richest blessings.

We begin to do this whenever we confess our sins and receive the assurance of forgiveness from His Gospel-word. May the depths of God’s love for His believing people fill our hearts with His comfort and peace as we hear His word, pray, and sing His praises this hour.

If you are a visitor among us and have need of assistance during the service, please ask our ushers. Please sign our guest register and speak with the pastor if you would like for him to contact you. You are always welcome among us! For what we have freely received we would freely give.

Order of Divine Worship

Hymn: TLH #1

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Dear Friends, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Tim. 1:15)
- C** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn 1:8-9)
- P** Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy for Jesus’ sake.
- C** O Lord, Merciful God and Father in heaven, we are altogether sinful from birth. By thought, word and deed, we have sinned against You. We know that we deserve nothing but punishment in this life and forever. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and cleanse us from our sins for the sake of Your Holy Son, Jesus Christ, Who lived under the Law, suffered the punishment of hell, and died in our place and for our sins. And grant us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may change our ways -- crucifying the sinful desires of the flesh and serving You and our neighbor in holy love. Amen.
- 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 by faith in Jesus. May God give you strength to live according to His will, so that you may bring glory to His saving name.

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first staff is in C major and 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff continues the melody with a treble clef, featuring a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics are: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.". The third staff is in 3/4 time, with a treble clef, and features a dotted half note followed by quarter notes. The lyrics are: "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.

THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Almighty and Everlasting God, Whose love we know through Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, hear our prayers on behalf of your servants who suffer from various illnesses and diseases. We beg you to continue Your merciful kindness toward them by the increase of their faith and hope in Your word of power and promise. We ask that you restore each one of our sick to health. Nevertheless, trusting in Your own perfect wisdom, we ask that Your will be done in these matters according to the special needs of each of your believing children. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, forevermore.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Job 19:23-27 “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! 24 That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27

Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

NEW TESTAMENT READING – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

P Here ends the reading of the Scripture lessons. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and guard it. 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: TLH #529

“I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

SERMON – John 5:1-14 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into

the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”⁸ Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.” ¹¹ He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”¹² Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

“LESSONS AT BETHESDA ON SIN AND SUFFERING”

- I. There is a relationship between sin and the ills of the human body.
- II. Jesus does not simply disregard our sufferings.
- III. Nor does He regard them simply.

OFFERTORY

☩ *♪* 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.



– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –



GENERAL PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: WS #756

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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!

HYMN: TLH #47 v.2-4

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

✝ Announcements ✝

Last Week: WH – 36 **Total Offering** = \$14,002.25 | General = \$1,252.25
Missions = \$50 | ILC Sch. = \$100 | Rent = \$600 | Benevolence = \$12,000

- ✝ **Sept. 11** 8am Orlando Service
10:15 am WH Service
- ✝ **Sept. 18** 10:15am WH Service
- ✝ **Sept. 18** Trustees Meeting
and Church Council Meeting
- ✝ **Sept. 25** 8am Orlando Service
10:15am WH Service
- ✝ **Oct. 2** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15am WH Communion
- ✝ **Oct. 2** Quarterly Voters'
Meeting

Call Letter At the voters' meeting we called Pastor Nathanael Mayhew. Here is his letter to the congregation. Members of Immanuel – coworkers in our Lord's service and recipients of His grace, I am writing to inform you that I have received your call to serve as pastor at Immanuel in Winter Haven, Florida. It is clear that there are many opportunities before you to bring the Lord's Word of comfort and hope to young, old everywhere in

between. What a privilege and joy that is! I assure you that I will prayerfully consider the divine call that you have extended to me, as well as my current calls to Grace -Sleepy Eye, and Faith - New Ulm. I request your prayers in these coming days, that the Lord would lead me to know where He would have me serve, and that His good and gracious will be done. You will continue in my prayers as well, that through the coming days our Triune God would sustain you as He has promised, through the faithful service of Pastor Fossum and the men of your congregation who bring you God's Word during this vacancy. May our Savior continue to bless your service to Him, Nathanael Mayhew

Cleaner (9/17): Naumann | **Acolyte (9/18):** Maxwell Kuehne

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 12 – Sept. 17, '22

Mon Luke 15:1-10 The Pharisees and scribes grumbled about Jesus receiving sinners. He responded with a double parable about one lost sheep of a hundred being worth finding, and one lost coin out of ten being worth finding. Then He pointed out that the angels in heaven were not grumbling but rejoicing over one sinner who returns to God.

Tues 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 The Corinthians had excluded a manifestly impenitent man. Now he had repented, but some perhaps thought it too easy for him if he was simply received back. Paul urged them to show their love and receive him. We are reminded again how Jesus received tax collectors and sinners seeking forgiveness.

Wed Hosea 3:1-5 Hosea's life was used by God as a parable to call out to His people who were guilty of spiritual adultery, going after other gods. His purpose in all of this was that the children of Israel should return and seek the Lord their God, and come to His goodness in the latter days (v5).

Thurs Exodus 32:7-14 Once the spiritual adultery of the children of Israel showed itself on mount Sinai, where the people made a golden calf and worshiped it. When the LORD expressed his anger, Moses interceded for them, reminding the LORD of His gracious promises. The LORD was favorable to such reliance on His sure Word.

Fri 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Paul cannot speak enough about the grace that overflowed to him with faith and love in connection with Jesus. He counted himself foremost among sinners, a blasphemer and persecutor, and yet Christ Jesus came into the world to save even him! Surely such a Savior deserves our honor, glory and trust!

Sat Psalm 51:10-15 David, guilty among other things of murder and adultery, repented and found forgiveness in the Lord. Now he prays for a clean heart that finds in the Lord's salvation both joy and a willing spirit. "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you" (v13).

The Master's Minute

(Radio Broadcast, Columbia, SC , September 26, 2016)

Welcome to the Master's Minute. Some farmers will always complain about the weather that decreased their crop-yield at harvest. Others will be thankful that the low yields have also raised the market prices for their crops. For some, change seems bad, for others change is good.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says that there is a "time for every purpose under heaven." God is always changing things for the good of the Christian, whether we realize it or not (Rom. 8:28). In fact, God must make many changes in our lives if He is going to save us from the devil, our sinful flesh, and this perishing world.

Whether we understand the changes in our lives, or whether they bring pain or pleasure, one thing the Christian knows for sure: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8), and He is "the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end" (Rev. 21:6)!

Because God's love and merciful kindness in Jesus Christ does not change, the Christian is confident that in spite of his own sins and unworthiness, he may pray to His Savior God in every time of need. We may see change and decay everywhere we look; we may find it hard to understand or to accept the difficult changes we experience. Yet, because of Jesus, we know that God will never turn us away. May you know this Christ and the certain hope He brings to every changing scene of your life.