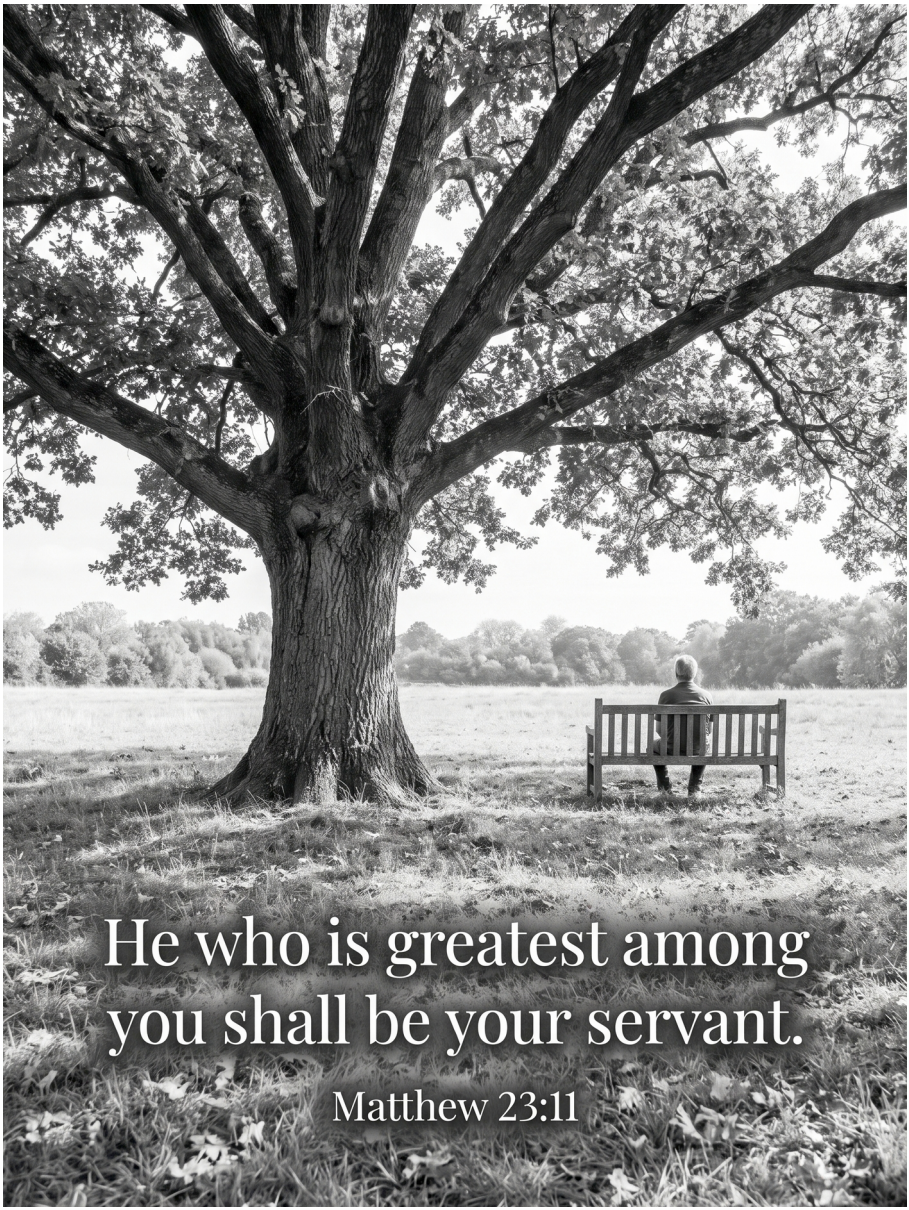


Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881
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Neil Bernthal, Teacher	(863) 967-5145
Katie Naumann, Teacher	(253) 230-4184

As We Gather

By nature, we all want to look our best. We spend time and effort dressing up, hoping to impress others with our outward appearance. In our spiritual lives, it is tempting to do the exact same thing. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us against the Pharisees, who loved to parade around in elaborate religious garments to show off their supposed holiness to the world. How often do we try to stitch together our own impressive spiritual wardrobes of good deeds, hoping to earn the praise of men or even the favor of God? As we prepare our hearts for worship this morning, we will examine our spiritual closets and discover the profound, humbling comfort that, because of Christ, we are "Wearing the Right Robes."

✢ Preparation for Worship ✢

Hymn 298 – Baptized into Thy Name Most Holy

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 5:5b-6

P I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
C **My soul shall be joyful in my God;**
P For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
C **He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.**
P Be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
C **Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.**

Confession and Absolution

P As we gather before God, we recognize how easily we are drawn to the outward show of religion. We are tempted to fashion our own robes of self-righteousness, hoping to look good before others, all while hiding the sin that stains our hearts. Yet, the Lord searches the heart and calls for truth in our inward parts. He warns us against the pride that exalts itself. Let us therefore humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, confessing our hypocrisy and trusting entirely in the covering of Christ's perfect righteousness.

C **Almighty God, we confess that we have cared more about appearing righteous before men than being righteous before You. We have sought honor for ourselves and have often looked down upon others. We have tried to cover our sins with the filthy rags of our own works, rather than trusting in Your mercy. Strip away our pride and hypocrisy. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our humble Savior, forgive us. Renew our hearts, and clothe us with His purity, that we may walk in a manner worthy of our calling.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross, so that you might be exalted in His resurrection. In Holy Baptism, He has washed you and clothed you in the white robes of His salvation. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Glory be to the Father

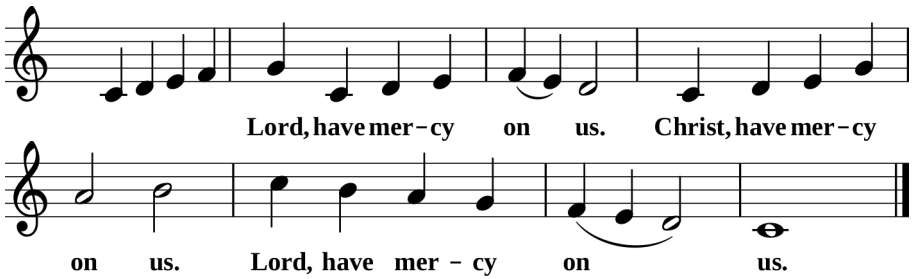
Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C **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.**

Lord, Have Mercy

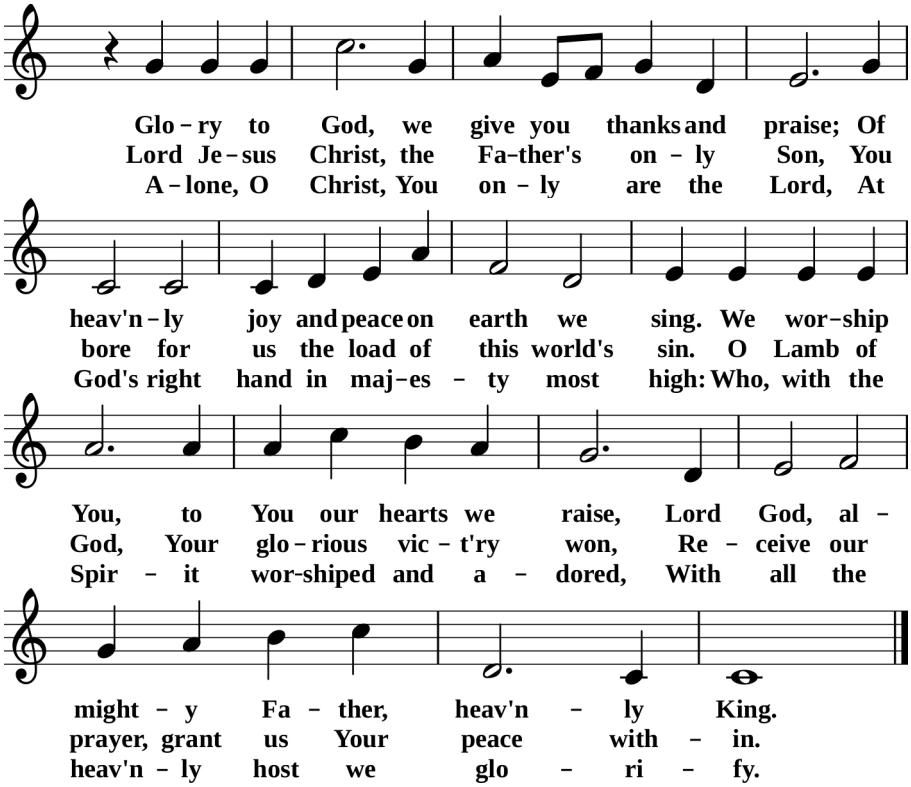
Kyrie





Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray…
… who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 3:5-12

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who make my people stray;
Who chant “Peace” While they chew with their teeth, But who prepare war
against him Who puts nothing into their mouths: 6 “Therefore you shall have
night without vision, And you shall have darkness without divination; The

sun shall go down on the prophets, And the day shall be dark for them. [7] So the seers shall be ashamed, And the diviners abashed; Indeed they shall all cover their lips; For there is no answer from God." [8] But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin. [9] Now hear this, You heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And pervert all equity, [10] Who build up Zion with bloodshed And Jerusalem with iniquity: [11] Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us." [12] Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 43

P Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation;
C **Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!**
P For You are the God of my strength; Why do You cast me off?
C **Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?**
P Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me;
C **Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.**
P Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy;
C **And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.**
P Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?
C **Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.**

Epistle Reading

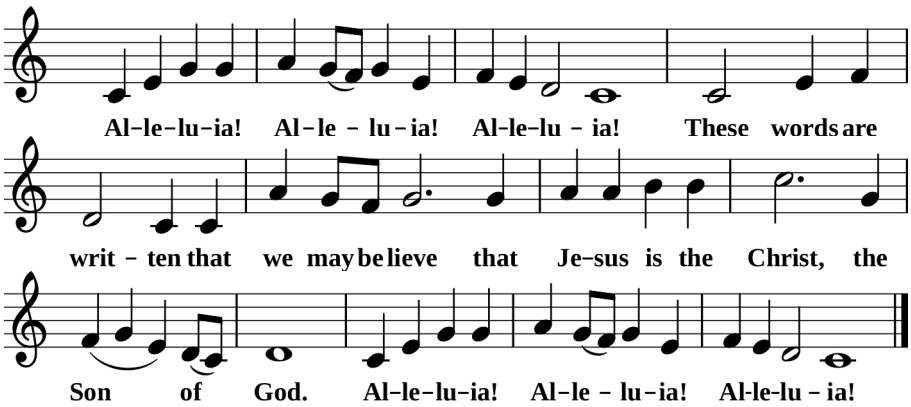
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

[1] Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; [2] for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. [3] For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; [4] that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, [5] not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; [6] that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. [7] For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. [8] Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. [9] But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; [10] and indeed you

do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; [11] that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, [12] that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

Alleluia

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



Confession of Faith

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

392 – Blest Is the Man, Forever Blest

Sermon Text

Matthew 23:1-12

[1] Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, [2] saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. [3] Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works;

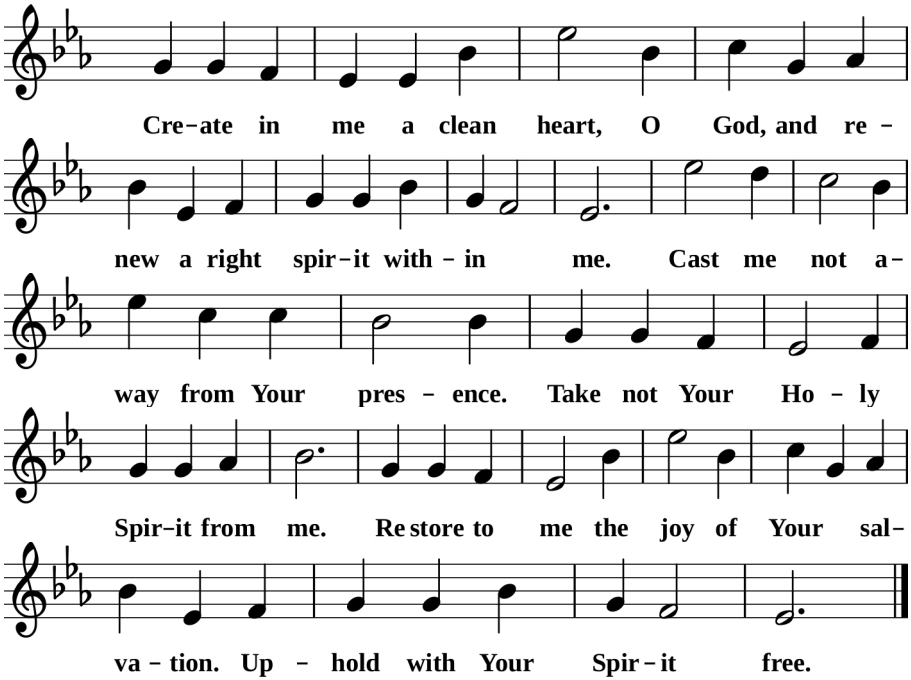
for they say, and do not do. [4] For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. [5] But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. [6] They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, [7] greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' [8] But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. [9] Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. [10] And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. [11] But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.



Sermon

Wearing the Right Robes

Offertory
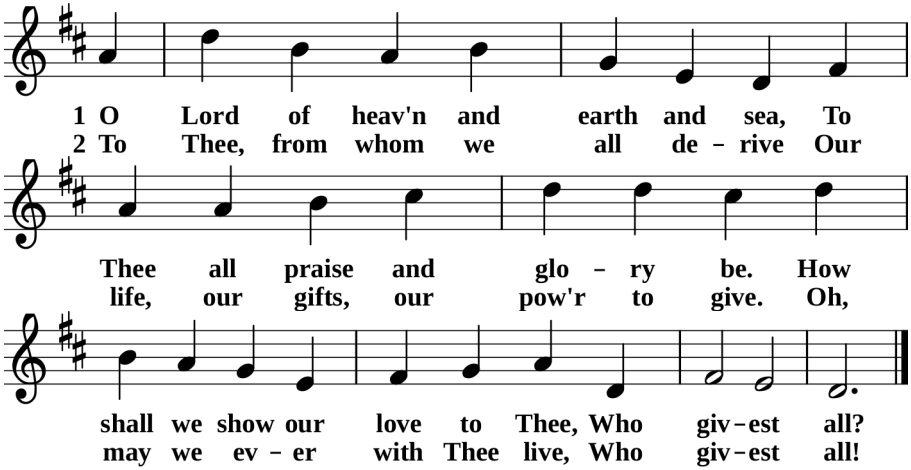


Hymn

412 – May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfil

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

751 – God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

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✢ Announcements ✢

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar		
November 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
November 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
November 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 26	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Day Worship Service

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 7** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: We live in a noisy world. From buzzing phones to endless news cycles, the clamor is constant. We are used to voicing our opinions and demanding to be heard. But what happens when the Almighty speaks? Next Sunday, the prophet Zephaniah delivers a sobering command: "Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD" (Zephaniah 1:7). He warns of the coming Day of the Lord, a day of wrath and distress. How can sinners possibly stand before our holy Judge? Join us next week as we explore our sermon theme, Silence Before the Sovereign Lord. We will discover how the terrifying silence of the Law gives way to the comforting peace of our Savior, who stood silent before His accusers to redeem us.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting Update: Last Sunday, November 1, we held our Quarterly Voters' Meeting to review the work the Lord is doing among us here at Immanuel. Here are some brief highlights of the meeting:

- **Pastor's Report**
  - We continue to see a steady average Sunday worship attendance of 40 (Winter Haven & Orlando Combined).
  - In our Sunday Bible Class, we have begun an enriching new series titled "Earthen Vessels: Saints and Sinners in the Hands of a Gracious God."

    - Catechism instruction is underway for our four students. 3 students will be confirmed on February 7.
    - Pastor continues to teach the 7th and 8th graders at Immanuel School Monday through Thursday.
    - In your daily prayers, please continue to remember our shut-in members, that the Lord may comfort and strengthen them.
    - Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Advent and Christmas worship schedule:
        - Midweek Advent Services: December 2, 9, and 16 at 2:00 PM
        - Children's Christmas Service: December 18 at 7:00 PM
        - Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 7:00 PM
        - Christmas Day Service: December 25 at 10:15 AM
- **Financial Overview**

  Our Treasurer's Report (January 1 - September 30, 2026) showed a total income of $122,642 against total expenses of $142,466. While this results in a temporary net deficit, there is no cause for alarm. The deficit is largely driven by a $31,350 shortfall in anticipated tuition. Because our tuition is collected in quarterly payments (September, December, February, and May), this is merely a matter of timing, and those funds are forthcoming. We do note that general offerings were $5,319 under budget for the period, so we encourage the congregation in their continued faithful stewardship.
- **Immanuel School**

  We are blessed to have 24 students enrolled this academic year across Ms. Katie and Mr. Bernthal's classes, representing every grade level from Kindergarten through 9th grade.
- **Property**
    - Finished projects include new window blinds by the organ and the repair of a hole in the Littles' shed.
    - Repair to the pew supports are approximately ¾ completed.
    - The kitchen door was replace with a wall.
    - A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents for the Church Workday yesterday.

A complete copy of the meeting minutes, as well as the Q3 Treasurer's Report will be available soon.

CLC Call News: Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

Fruits of Faith	November 1, 2026	Attendance: WH – 44	
Immanuel Lutheran Church		**Church of the Lutheran Confession**	
General Budget		***General Budget***	
$1,210.00	General Budget	$70.00	CLC General Budget
$1,362.00	Weekly Need	$67.31	Weekly Need
-$152.00	-Under / +Over	-$67.31	-Under / +Over
$57,236.67	Year to Date Offerings	$1,695.00	Year to Date Offerings
$59,928.00	Year to Date Need	$2,961.64	Year to Date Need
-$2,691.33	Year to Date (+/-)	-$1,266.64	Year to Date (+/-)

✢ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✢

November 9–14, 2026

Monday - *Luke 18:9-14*
Jesus tells a parable to those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others. He teaches that the tax collector who humbly prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (v. 13) went down to his house justified rather than the proud Pharisee.

Tuesday - *Philippians 3:4-9*
The apostle Paul reflects on his impressive earthly credentials but considers them all as rubbish. His ultimate desire is to be found in Christ, not having his own righteousness from the law, but "the righteousness which is from God by faith" (v. 9).

Wednesday - *Isaiah 64:4-9*
The prophet confesses the sinful condition of the people, admitting that "all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags" (v. 6). Yet, he appeals to God's mercy as our Father and the Potter, asking Him to remember that we are all His people.

Thursday - *Romans 3:21-28*
Paul explains that we cannot boast in our own works, because all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Instead, believers are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (v. 24).

Friday - *1 John 1:5-10*
We are reminded that if we claim to have no sin, we deceive ourselves. But when we humbly confess our sins, God is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (v. 9).

Saturday - *1 Peter 5:5-11*
Peter encourages believers to submit to one another and practice humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble" (v. 5). He assures us that God cares for us and will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle us.