

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 14-19, '20.

Mon 1 Kings 17:17-24 God blessed Elijah and the widow with His limitless resources. That didn't seem to jibe with her son's illness and death, so the mother wanted to know if she was being penalized for former sins. Because the boy's future was more important than her past, Elijah interceded with God, and God restored the boy to his mother, thereby validating her faith. It's a success story all around: giving & receiving forms a golden circle.

Tues John 11:1-4, 20-27, 38-44 The key thought is that sickness and death are not ends in themselves, but mechanisms whereby God is glorified. When we are suffering from illness or death of a loved one, we latch onto Jesus, who is powerful enough to overcome death and loving enough to do so for His friends (24-27). Jesus brought everything full circle, which glorified His Father. Those who hid in the shadows missed great opportunity (45-57).

Wed Romans 12:1-8 What does God receive from us in return for His love? He receives *our reasonable service*—that we *present our bodies as a living* (not a butchered) *sacrifice*, dedicated to Him (1-3). Serving God percolates into serving others (4-5), as each of us stretches our talents, gifts, resources, and skills to make life better for others (6-8). Not too much to ask or give.

Thurs Psalm 121 is entitled *A Song of Ascents* because pilgrims sang it when they were walking uphill to Jerusalem. They sang it en route to God's House, depending on God to watch over them day and night as they traversed rough terrain and passed hidden dangers. When the words switch from *my help* to *your keeper*, we are drawn into the holy circle of the LORD's blessings.

Fri Matthew 16:21-26 Though he was a child of God, Peter was making a big mistake when he objected to God's way of doing His business (21-22), so Jesus set him straight (23). God's way of doing things for the salvation of sinners like us (24-25) stands in contrast to the way humans try to get into heaven or crave becoming important in God's Kingdom. Salvation cost God a lot, and it may cost us a lot to hang onto our salvation, too (26).

Sat 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Our parents, teachers, and pastors have delivered the facts to us (over and over again) – that Jesus finished off everything God promised (*according to the Scriptures*) to the world of sinners (3-4). No doubt about these facts for Peter, for the select twelve, for over 500 brethren all at once, for James, for the entire set of apostles, and for Paul himself (5-8), an unfit person if there ever was one (8-10). What does all this mean? It means that God compensates for the total failure of humanity and for the specific failures of individuals, too. We depend on it (1-2,11). Amen and Hallelujah!

September 13, 2020

Trinity 14

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Paul Seger
Acolyte: Grant Bernthal

Bless
THE LORD
o my
Soul
Psalm 103:1



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalms 103:1-5

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #29:1-3,6 "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"

1. Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.
2. Of His deliverance I will boast Till all that are distressed
From my example comfort take And charm their griefs to rest.
3. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, With me exalt His name!
When in distress to Him I cried, He to my rescue came.
6. Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear;
Make you His service your delight, He'll make your wants His care.

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

C **A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge**

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 **Amén, amén, a – men.**

HYMN: WS #742:1-3 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!
3. Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!

✠ Announcements ✠

Bible Class went well this past Wednesday and was well received. We had 14 in attendance, and since it's all digital, we have room for lots more! Look for my email Wednesday morning with details for this week's Zoom meeting.

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Sept. 13:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ✠ **Sept. 16:** Zoom Bible Class 6:30p
- ✠ **Sept. 20:** Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ **Sept. 23:** Zoom Bible Class 6:30p
- ✠ **Sept. 27:** Orlando Service 8 am

Letters of Encouragement are one very easy way to make a huge difference in the day-to-day life of a fellow Christian who is struggling with health or otherwise. Mr. Beymer received some letters in recent weeks, and he could not stop mentioning how much better that made him feel. Please take the time this week to drop a letter in the mail to someone you haven't seen in a while. You could also easily include some comfort from Scripture, perhaps from **Ps. 46:1-7, Ps. 130, Isaiah 40:30-31, Isaiah 41:10, John 10:27-29, John 14:27, Romans 8:37-39**, and many more!

Last Week (9/6) WH – 36

General = \$2,780 | Property = \$90 | Robert Bentley Memorial = \$25

Total Offering = \$2,855

Sept. Usher: Seger | **Cleaner (9/20):** Bernthal | **Acolyte (9/21):** Hayden

SERMON – Acts 3:1-11 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

Jesus! Name of Priceless Worth

- I. Worth more than silver and gold
- II. Worthy of our worship and praise

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

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: TLH #360:1-3,6 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
6. See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain;
His soul was once an offering made For every soul of man.

of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

G *♩* A - - - men.

INTROIT

Ps. 84

- P** Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of Your anointed!
- G** For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
- P** How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes faints for the courts of the LORD.
- G** Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing your praise!
- P** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- G** The Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

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

Ps. 65:1

P Alleluia. Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

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

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

C ♪ 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!

P Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 17:13-14 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water. 14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

GOSPEL READING – John 5:1-15 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, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids-- blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you

want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." ¹¹ But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

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 #364:1-4 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

- 1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear.**
- 2. It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.**
- 3. Dear name! The Rock on which I build, My Shield and Hiding-place;
My never-failing Treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.**
- 4. By Thee my prayers acceptance gain Although with sin defiled.
Satan accuses me in vain, And I am owned a child.**