

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 9-14, '20.

Mon Psalm 90 We are depending on God to pull us through the post-election crises (1-2) as we youngsters and oldsters petition God for compassion on us (13-15) so that our lives will count for something that will last. Since “only what’s done for Christ will last,” that befits the work of our hands, hearts, and souls. Lord, have mercy on us in these last days of sore distress!

Tues Matthew 25:31-46 pictures humanity in court, facing trial. Since guilt or innocence should be based on hard evidence, what’s the evidence which Jesus will bring up when He presides over the case of God vs. humanity? The conclusive evidence will be one’s response to Christ—reflected in how we treat one another in this “new normal” (35-45). Case closed (46).

Wed 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 uses the picture language of *thief in the night, labor pains of a pregnant woman, sleeping one’s life away, being drunk or sober, and getting geared for battle* (2-8). All of which illustrates how we will interface with Jesus on Judgment Day. Not to worry, for Jesus has guaranteed the decree of acquittal (*salvation*) rather than condemnation (*wrath*), and a lively future that we will enjoy together *with Him* (9-11). Hallelujah!

Thurs Malachi 3:6-12 What shall occupy us while we await Jesus’ return? We shall attend to our privileged responsibilities as stewards of God’s gifts, and when we falter or stumble, that’s our own fault and clear-cut evidence that we need straightening out. No argument about it (6-9). After that, watch how God capitalizes on our repentance and our re-dedication (10-12)!

Fri Luke 16:1-13 Though the steward was *unjust* in a number of ways, Jesus wants us to focus on his resourcefulness—for when he had the window of opportunity, he found a way to leverage his future security. We can do better. Let’s use our position in life, Bible resources, and God-given skills to serve our fellow men so that their souls get to heaven, where they will welcome us at our arrival (9)! Our stewardship is best devoted to **salvaging souls.**

Sat 2 Corinthians 9:5-15 Since Christians are busy doing what they can to help others, the Corinth Christians wanted to add their \$\$ contribution for *ministering to the saints* in Palestine, who were going through some tough times financially. Paul was making the rounds with other congregations too, encouraging them to be *generous and cheerful* sharers of God’s blessings (6-7). After all, God has always been generous and cheerful with His children (8-11), supplying the *needs of the saints* and reinforcing the love-bond between giver and receiver (12-14).

November 8, 2020

Missions Sunday

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Mason Goodwin

He will tend his flock like a
Shepherd



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 67:1-7

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah ² that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

C Congregation

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #507 "Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word"

1. Spread, oh, spread, thou mighty Word, Spread the kingdom of the Lord, Wheresoe'er His breath has giv'n Life to beings meant for heav'n.
2. Tell them how the Father's will Made the world and keeps it still, How His only Son He gave Man from sin and death to save.
3. Tell of our Redeemer's love, Who forever doth remove By His holy sacrifice All the guilt that on us lies.
4. Tell them of the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us up to heav'n, Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.
5. Up! The ripening fields ye see. Mighty shall the harvest be; But the reapers still are few, Great the work they have to do.
6. Lord of Harvest, let there be Joy and strength to work for Thee Till the nations far and near See Thy light and learn Thy fear.

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

C Amen!

Responsive Reading

Various Texts

- P** Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
- C** Declare His glory among the nations. *(Psalm 96:2-3)*
- P** Jesus commands us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
- C** Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- P** Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;
- C** And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *(Mt. 28:19-20)*
- P** Jesus reminds us: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

HYMN: TLH #496:1,2,4

"Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying"

1. Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?" Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward He offers thee; Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me!"
2. If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgement's dread alarms, You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.
4. Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do," While the souls of men are dying And the Master calls for you. Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be; Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

✠ Announcements ✠

What is a Lutheran? A

Lutheran is a Christian. A Lutheran believes strongly that all Christian teachings should come from the Bible, because it is the very Word of God. A Lutheran believes that God's Word ought to be taken very seriously, as everything God says is correct and true. A Lutheran recognizes what God teaches us in His Word: that we are all sinners deserving damnation in hell, but that we are forgiven solely because Christ died to take away our sins. A Lutheran believes that this free gift of salvation is acquired by the individual through faith in Jesus as Savior—and that this faith only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, as God tells us! In short, a Lutheran is a follower of Christ who depends entirely upon His grace and redeeming work, totally apart from any works, feelings, or decisions that we could attempt to contribute! **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast!** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

If you would like to learn more about what we believe and what the Bible teaches, or if you'd just like to talk, please feel free to contact Pastor Rodebaugh to set up a time to meet at your convenience.

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Last Week WH – 42

Total Offering = \$3,562.00

Nov. Usher: Darrin | **Cleaner (11/14):** Annette | **Acolyte (11/15):** Landon

SERMON – Luke 15:1-10 (NIV84) Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Singled Out by Grace

- I. For salvation
- II. For a purpose

OFFERTORY

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 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.

School Children Sing "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."

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.

- C** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." *(Mark 16:15-16)*

- P** Jesus informs us: "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

- C** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." *(Luke 24:46-47)*

- P** Jesus assures us: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;

- C** If you retain the sins of any, they are retained." *(John 20:23)*

- P** Jesus promises us: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

- C** And you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." *(Acts 1:8)*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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

- P** Beloved in the Lord! You have heard the commands, reminders, assurances, and promises of our Savior regarding our roles within His kingdom work. Let us examine both our hearts and our lives, for by doing so we will find reason to approach God with repentant hearts. Let us do so seeking His forgiveness.

- C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of our many sins. We have not always taken Your command to disciple the nations as seriously as we should, but rather have frequently been preoccupied with our own thoughts and desires. You have commanded us to be Your witnesses to the ends of the earth, but we must confess that all too often we fail to be witnesses in our own back yards. O Lord, have mercy upon us and by Your grace forgive us. Create within us new hearts and renew us by giving us steadfast spirits, so that we heed Your calls and proclaim the good news of Your salvation.

- P** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins, including those sins involved in our work in His kingdom. To all who believe on His name, He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Indeed, whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- C** Amen.

**4. Knowing Thee and Thy salvation, Grateful love dare never cease
To proclaim Thy tender mercies, Gracious Lord, Thy heav'nly peace.
Sound we forth the Gospel tidings To the earth's remotest bound
That the sinner has been pardoned And forgiveness can be found.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and gracious God, You desire all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross, that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 40:9-11 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Acts 8:26-39 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say

this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Luther's Explanation to the 3rd Article*

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead, and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

HYMN: WS #770:1-4 "I Hear the Savior Calling"

1. I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me.
My eyes once closed in blindness Are opened now to see
That I myself was helpless To live eternally,
But dying, Christ did save me, And now He calls for me!
 2. I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,
A soul in bitter anguish, One needing to be free.
The gift I have to offer Is Christ, my Lord's decree
That all have been forgiven—My savior calls for me!
3. I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:
To serve the best I'm able, Whate'er the call may be.
Thus hand in hand with others Who share the gospel key,
We spread the Gospel tidings—My savior calls for me!
 4. I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me.
From door to door I witness to share my Savior's plea;
Yet nothing can be added, No word on bended knee,
Beyond the simple gospel—My Savior calls for me!