

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; June 21-26, '21

Mon Ezekiel 17:22-24 Need help with this parable? Read the rest of the chapter, for the *tender, young twig* appears to be the spiritual side of Israel, where God *exalts what is lowly*, takes what is *dry and makes it flourish* (24). This prediction for Israel melds into a prophecy for others and fits the case of Christians who are afflicted by Satan, world, and their own sinful nature.

Tues Mark 4:26-34 What force causes the seed to sprout, makes it grow through natural stages, and develop into seed-heads? This is not a lesson in botany, but insight into God's Word producing grand results in His kingdom (26-29). Putting it another way, God takes a small nucleus and makes it grow into a sheltering refuge for travelers on their flight homeward (30-32). We have seen God doing that miracle in our own town and congregation.

Wed 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Our earthly life is like living in tents and moving from one campground to another because we don't own real estate. Now then, since heaven is our home and God has *prepared us for this very thing*, (8-9), we trust God to honor our reservation when we show up to claim it.

Thurs Psalm 92 honors God for producing us in His workshop, thus making us His workmanship. Though He's not finished with us, we are winners already (1-5). Note: palm trees are good for producing edibles, and cedars are good for lumber, so both have their places among God's abundant blessings.

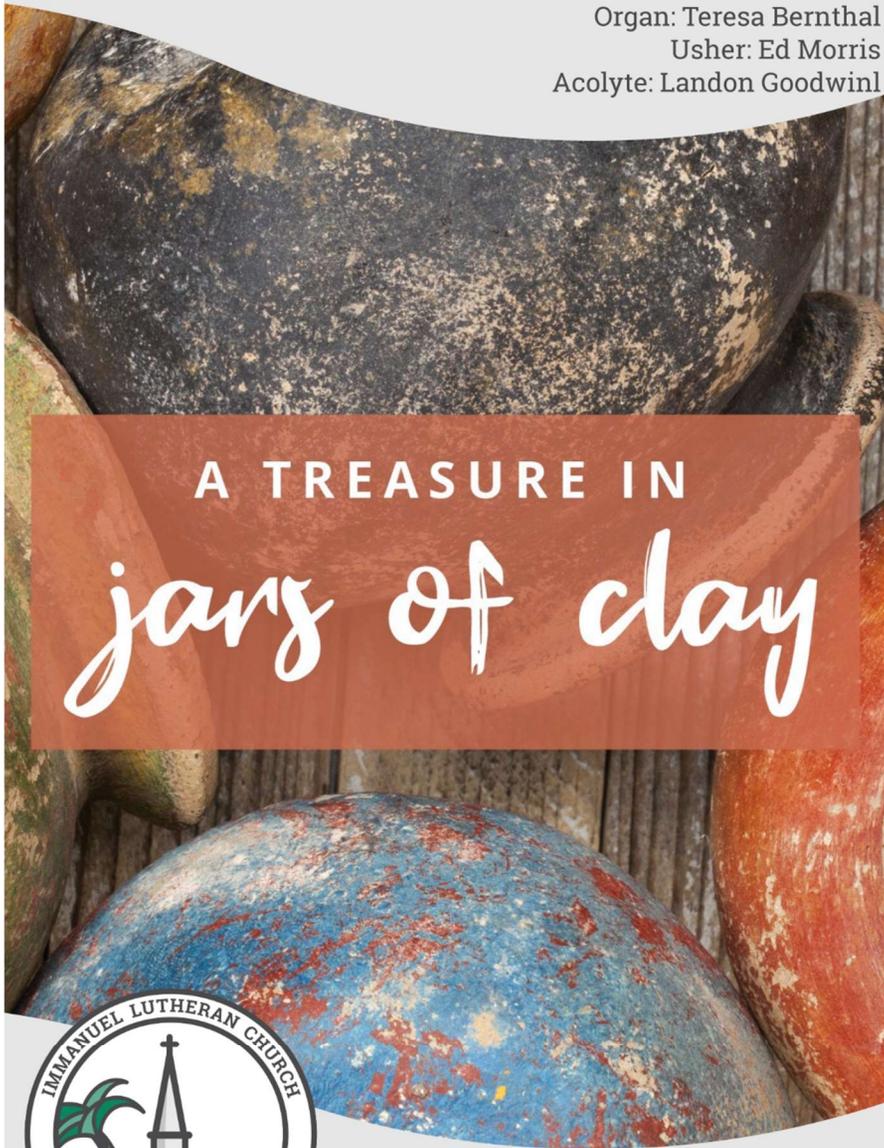
Fri Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 This message from Jesus humbles us, for He is giving us the bad news that Satan can infiltrate the ranks of confessing Christians; such hypocrites may escape detection in our congregations and fellowship for a lifetime - - until Jesus pulls them out and puts them where they belong. [Now, don't skip the closing verse, 43; it's good news.]

Sat Acts 27:39-28:1 Some might say that God was wasting time with those sailors, soldiers, and passengers at the mercy of the storm, but we know better, for they were not at the mercy of the storm but rather at the mercy of God. They had lost the cargo, the ship's running gear, and their personal belongings—so all they had left were their own lives. When the desperate soldiers planned to kill the prisoners, *lest any of them should swim away and escape* with their lives, the Lord made use of their superior officer to be more compassionate (43) and order everyone to abandon ship. So overboard they went, swam as best they could and/or latched onto floating debris, and that's how all *escaped* (Aha!) drowning and set foot on the beach of the island of Malta. ALL this happened exactly as God willed, for He had other plans for Paul, **and** 275 others had their time of grace extended. Praise the Lord!

June 20, 2021

Trinity 4

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Ed Morris
Acolyte: Landon Goodwin



A TREASURE IN
jars of clay



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #236:1,4 "Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid"

- 1. Creator Spirit, by whose aid The world's foundations first were laid, Come, visit every humble mind; Come, pour Thy joys on humankind; From sin and sorrow set us free And make Thy temples worthy Thee.**
- 4. Immortal honor, endless fame, Attend the almighty Father's name; The Savior Son be glorified, Who for lost man's redemption died; And equal adoration be, Eternal Paraclete, to Thee.**

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

☞ Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

☞ 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.

☞ **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.**

☞ 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!

☞ Amen!

✠ Announcements ✠

Saint Gone Home On Tuesday evening, around 5 pm, the Lord, in His infinite wisdom and mercy, saw fit to call our sister-in-Christ Emily Kuehne home to His side in heaven. She was 85 years old. Her victory service was held yesterday, Saturday, June 19th, at Ott-Laughlin Funeral Home in Auburndale, with family and friends in attendance. We praise the Lord for the deliverance of another one of His saints! Please keep the family in your prayers. (If you would like to read her obituary, you may find it online at this link: <https://bit.ly/35AemQ1>)

- ☞ **June 24-27:** CLC Convention
- ☞ **June 27:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ☞ **July 4:** Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- ☞ **July 11-17:** Katie Naumann Move
- ☞ **July 18:** Teacher Installation
- ☞ **July 19-23:** Vacation Bible School

The Annual CLC Convention is being held this week in Eau Claire, WI. Please pray for all the delegates and called workers and their meetings.

Vacation Bible School will be held here at church July 19-23. This year, our theme will be "Children of the Heavenly Father." If you are interested in helping in any way or donating snacks, please speak with Pastor. Also, please start inviting any children you might know!

Miss Katie Naumann Move – Katie will be moving into her apartment on July 15th. She will be living at Briarcrest apartments in Winter Haven, near the Cypress Gardens Wal-Mart. If you are able to be here on the 15th to help her move in, the more the merrier!

Pounding – As we get ready to receive Miss Katie Naumann as our new lower grade teacher, let's be sure to welcome her with a pantry full of dry goods. If you are able to donate some cans or other non-perishable food items to help her stock her pantry, please bring some to church over the next few weeks. If you'd like to donate something to put in her refrigerator, just be sure to wait until the week of to buy it! Thank you!

The CLC Convention Communion Service will be held at Messiah, Eau Claire on Saturday, June 26, beginning at 7 pm. The service will be live streamed. To view, go to www.eauclairemessiah.com and click on the "Live Stream" button (lower left). The Convention itself, while in session, will also be live streamed. To view, search for "ilcvideos" on www.youtube.com. The Convention schedule is printed in the Convention *Prospectus*, beginning on page 6. The *Prospectus* is available online at tinyurl.com/clcprosp-21.

Last Week: WH – 22 Orlando – 10 **Total Offering = \$674**
General = \$496 | Property Improve. = \$100 | Spokesman = \$28 | ILC Scholarship = \$50

Cleaner (6/26): Bernthal | **Acolyte (6/27):** Grant Bernthal

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.

HYMN: TLH #657**“Beautiful Savior”**

1. Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer; He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

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.

HYMN: TLH #49**“Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast”**

1. Almighty God, Thy Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend
And righteous fruits abound.
2. Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove.
But give it root in every heart To bring forth fruits of love.
3. Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.
4. Oft as the precious seed is sown, Thy quickening grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know.

INTROIT*Ps. 92:1, 12-15**A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.
- C** The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- P** They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.
- C** They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,
- P** to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.
- C** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

**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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

1st SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 4:26-34 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Ezekiel 17:22-24 Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

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 #781:1,3,5

"Preach You the Word"

- 1. Preach you the Word and plant it home To those who like or like it not, The Word that shall endure and stand When flow'rs and mortals are forgot.**
- 3. The sower sows; his reckless love Scatters abroad the goodly seed, Intent alone that there may be The wholesome loaves that people need.**
- 5. Preach you the Word and plant it home And never faint; the Harvest-Lord Who gave the sower seed to sow Will watch and tend His planted Word.**

SERMON – 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Jesus Shines in the Christian Life

- I. As the Light in a darkened heart (5-6)
- II. As the Power in a challenging life (7-10)
- III. As the Hope in a blessed death (11-12)