

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Aug. 30-Sep. 4, '21

Mon Joshua 24:1-18 God had a lot to say (2-14), and nobody snoozed during this review of how God had kept His finger on them over the centuries; sixteen times [check it out] God reminded them of what He had done, and based on His loving care for them, God awaited their positive response--to serve Him. They were moved to pledge their loyalty (16-18)--a good step.

Tues John 6:60-69 Baby steps come before grown-up steps in religion, too. If the toddler sits down (60-66), it may take Father's hand to inspire confidence (65) and support His toddler—to believe and know that he is in safe hands. Jesus provides security for eternal life; we admit it and thank God for it.

Wed Ephesians 5:21-31 The Holy Christian Church is like a body, where arms and legs respond appropriately to signals from the brain. If the signals are garbled, disability and disaster follow. Same with Christians (the body of Christ), who willingly submit to signals from their Head, who is Christ Himself. Great picture language for an awesome and wonderful reality.

Thurs Psalm 71 [Paraphrase] "Lord, since You are the basis for my prayer (1-3), deliver me as You did in the past (4-6), are doing in the present (7-8), and will do in the future (9-11). My life has a dark side (12-13), but I will continue to be humbly proud (14-16). My life history (17-18) demonstrates that You are for me (19-21) – and therefore I am for You (22-24). Amen."

Fri John 7:1-9 Jesus did not disdain His brothers and sisters, for He had come to save them also – but His siblings made home-life difficult with snarky remarks like this one (3-5). Jesus took it in stride, for He understood what they did not understand, and He marched to a different drummer (6-8). He may have left Nazareth, but not His favored country.

Sat Leviticus 18:1-20 [A follow-up on Wednesday's reading] God was training His people to revere Him, respect His regulations, and submit to His house rules. For instance, males should not have sex with female relatives, and God spelled it out (8-18) to cover all circumstances. If you have ever puzzled over the wording in v. 16: *it is your brother's nakedness*—it simply means that the woman's body belongs to her husband; by right of marriage her body is **his**; her nakedness belongs to her husband, and not to anybody else—including her brother-in-law. Such a simple and direct way to make the point that God intends to protect husband and wife from being adulterated; marriage means fidelity, and fidelity includes sexual fidelity.

August 29, 2021

Trinity 14

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Mike Sheffield
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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 14

¹ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. ² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. ⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD? ⁵ There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous. ⁶ You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge. ⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #625 "Oh, Blest the House Whate'er Befall"

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

G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

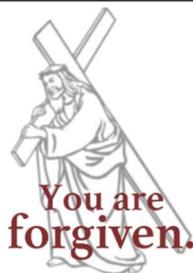
G If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us pray.

G Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.



✠ **Scripture Alone** — The only reliable way to find out what God says is through the Bible. The Bible was written by men but authored by God. Human ideas change. Logical conclusions can be wrong. Traditions can become outdated and unprofitable. Only the testimony of the eternal and all-knowing God is completely reliable. "Scripture alone" means that the Bible stands as the foundation for our thinking in every area.

✠ Announcements ✠

Welcome! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the hallway near the entrance. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach. Where and when? Your convenience.

Dan Gurgel passed away suddenly on Monday, August 16th. He was the father of Joel and Gina Gurgel, the uncle to Neil Bernthal. Dan's memorial service will be held with a full honor guard at Bay Pines National Cemetery tomorrow, Monday, August 30th, at 2:00p.

✠ **Aug. 29:** ILS Students Sing
✠ **Sept. 4:** Communion Service
✠ **Sept. 4:** Bible Class and Sunday School Begin
✠ **Sept. 4:** Bds of Ed & Elders
✠ **Sept. 11:** Orlando Service 8 am

Bible Class & Sunday School begin next weekend at 9:00 am. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your family to continue to *grow* in faith in God's Word. Please plan on taking extra time to be in God's House, starting next weekend!

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Greg Tincher** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. **Liz Hartmann** continues to recover from surgery, but she is improving. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and suffered a recent fall. **Rudy Enriquez** has been declared cancer free and a "one in a thousand case." Praise the Lord for His loving care! Friend of Immanuel **Monique Desrochers** is hospitalized with COVID and invites your prayers on her behalf. **Craig AND Kay Owings** are very sick and in need of prayers.

Last Week: WH – 32 Orlando – 10

Total Offering = \$2,660.25

Gen. = \$2,360.25 | Property = \$150 | KINSHIP = \$150

Cleaner (9/4): Ream | **Acolyte (9/5):** Grant Bernthal



– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:



OFFERING HYMN: TLH #788:1

“Lord, You Love...”

- C** *♪* Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.

PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

- 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!

CLOSING HYMN: WS #758 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

What is “Lutheran”?

There are so many churches in our day, sorting them all out can be quite confusing! There are also different kinds of “Lutherans” because the term means different things to different people. What “Lutheran” originally meant – and what it still means here at Immanuel – can be summed up with three basic ideas about how we gain eternal life:

- ✠ **Grace Alone** — Because we are sinners, we do not deserve God’s love. Instead, we deserve punishment and separation from God and His goodness, forever. But, in an unprecedented act of grace, God showered his sacrificial love on undeserving sinners. God the Father sent God the Son to suffer the full punishment for our sins, and to die in our place. Heaven’s doors are open to us, not because of what we do for God, but because of what He has done for us through Jesus. Sinners are saved by God’s undeserved love – by grace alone.
- ✠ **Faith Alone** — Jesus has suffered the full punishment for all people’s sins. But this doesn’t mean that all people will end up in heaven. The gift of salvation is free but is received only through faith. Faith isn’t just acknowledging that God exists. Faith isn’t trying to follow a bunch of rules and commandments. Faith means trust. Christian faith is freely given to sinners by God the Holy Spirit; it means having a heart which trusts that God kept His promise to send a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus.

- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. 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.**

INTROIT

Ps. 26:1ff

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.
- C** **Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.**
- P** Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
- C** **I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.**
- P** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

ILS Students Sing

“Come Follow Me”

The kingdom of heaven is near. As you have received, so, then you will give. Be not afraid with the Lord at your side, for Jesus died so we may live.

He said, “Come follow me. Come follow me. Come by yourselves to a quiet place. Come follow me. Come follow me.” That someday we may see His face.

Those who are weary, take rest. Look to Him for comfort and He will soothe your soul. For He is gentle and humble in heart, and Jesus died to make us whole.

He said, “Come follow me. Come follow me. Come by yourselves to a quiet place. Come follow me. Come follow me.” That someday we may see His face.

Come follow me. Come follow me. That someday we may see His face.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

☞ Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

GOSPEL READING – John 6:60-69 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."



EPISTLE READING – Hebrews 11:24-28 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

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 #37

"Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"

SERMON – Joshua 24:1-5, 13-15 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. ⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. . . . I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.' ¹⁴ "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Christians Don't Settle For Less

I: The false, man-made gods are worthless

II: The *true* God has made man worthy in Christ