

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 22-27, '21

Mon Daniel 7:9-14 The *Ancient of Days* (9) is God the Father, here acting as Judge (11-12). Jesus is ushered into the Judge's chamber (13), and another verdict is issued—that Jesus should be granted *dominion and glory and a Kingdom that shall not be destroyed*. We acknowledge Jesus as King of kings; we are His subjects in the kingdom of God/heaven. Let every kindred, every tribe On this terrestrial ball To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all! [TLH, 339:6]

Tues John 18:33-37 In a lower court Jesus was invited to testify, but Pilate's question was so lop-sided that Jesus needed to clarify that His kingdom is not an adjunct of the Roman Empire nor a replica of oriental potentates, but rather a kingdom authorized by the Supreme Court to preside over the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth. That stymied Pilate, but he was honest enough to declare Jesus not guilty of any civil or social crime.

Wed Revelation 1:4b-8 There is no tribute too great for the Father (4) and for Jesus Messiah, God's *faithful witness* from the grave, King of kings, *who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to God*. Nobody else—past, present, or future comes close to Jesus, the *Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is* (presently) and *who was* (historically), and *who is to come* (any day now), *the Almighty*.

Thurs Deuteronomy 8:10-18 Who has the gumption to read this passage aloud as we push away from the Thanksgiving table? We too are negligent about His commandments, we get preoccupied with acquiring affluence too, and God gets sidelined (12-13) even though He has supported us through our rough times (14-16). God deserves our *remembrance, for it is He who gives us the power/ability to get rich*.

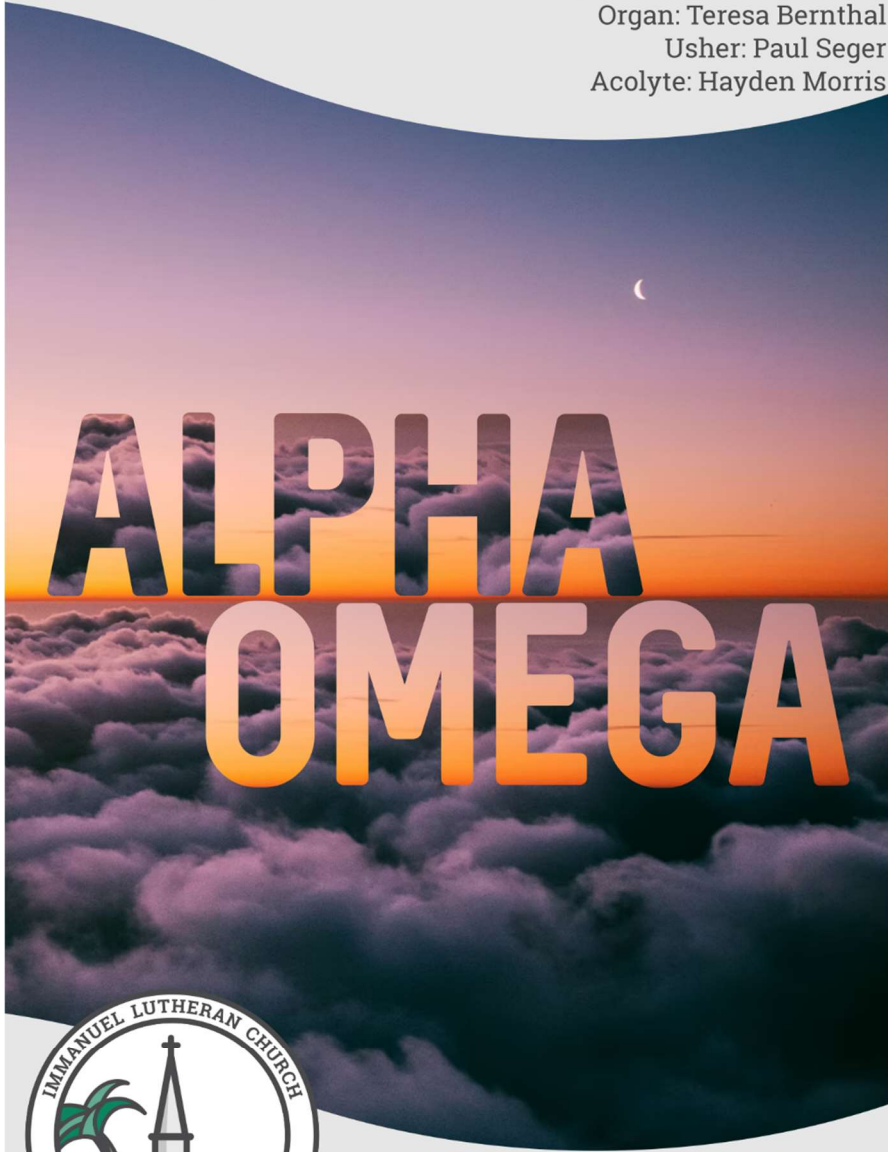
Fri Luke 17:11-19 So we don't have leprosy, but Covid-19 is rumbling along, so let's be thankful for daily blessings. This episode highlights two truths: On Jesus' side, He has power to heal a contagious disease, and (on our side) we have power to step away from the crowd and return to Jesus, giving Him thanks. [It is certainly possible (even likely) that Jesus gets more attention from foreign converts than from old-line Lutherans.]

Sat Philippians 4:10-20 The Christians in Philippi were newcomers, too, but they loved Pastor Paul and remembered him with a gift. Though Paul was a toughed veteran in God's service (11-13), he was thrilled they had gone out of their way to make his life more pleasant—for they had their hearts in it. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all. Amen.

November 21, 2021

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Paul Seger
Acolyte: Hayden Morris



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 93:1-5

¹ The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. ² Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³ The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴ Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty! ⁵ Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

OPENING PRAYER

Hymn: TLH #351 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

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

C *A - - - men.*

P Pastor

C Congregation

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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 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.

C *A - - - men.*

Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results.

The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin.

That is the glorious, biblical proclamation found in "The Quempas Carol," which we'll be singing through Advent. We are blessed to hear in it the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled." This is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ.

2022 CLC Mission Helper Trip – Applications are being accepted for the 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa in July. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa.

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. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and suffered a recent fall. **Liz Hartmann** has been having issues with her eyes for some time. After visiting a specialist in Miami this past week, it was discovered that she has a tumor behind her left eye that is malignant melanoma. She will be surgery next week. Please pray for Liz, that she may return to health as the Lord wills.

Last Week: WH – 25 Orlando – 15 **Total Offering** = \$1,878.75
General = \$1,293.75 | Property Improvement = \$200 | Benevolence = \$25
Building Fund = \$300 | ILC Scholarship = \$60

Cleaner (11/27): Ream | **Acolyte (11/28):** Seth Bernthal

OFFERTORY

- 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.

Hymn: TLH #608 "Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

- C** ♪ We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

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 #616:1-3, 6-8 "Forever With the Lord"

✠ Announcements ✠

Advent Series "God's own Son is born a child ... God the Father is reconciled." What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws near to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw near to the harsh reality of broken families and friendships. The

- ✠ **Nov. 21:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a
- ✠ **Nov. 25:** Thanksgiving 10:15a
- ✠ **Nov. 28:** Orlando Service 8a
- ✠ **Nov. 28:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a
- ✠ **Dec. 1:** Midweek Advent 6:30p
- ✠ **Dec. 5:** Elders & Council Mtgs.
- ✠ **Dec. 5:** Communion Service

sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others. We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.

INTROIT

Ps. 39:4-5,7-8,12; 2 Pet. 3:13

- P** We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
- C** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!
- P** Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
- C** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.
- P** Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!
- C** Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.



C 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

Revelation 22:13

- P** Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.



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

☞ **♪ 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!**

☞ Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **♪ A - - - men.**

GOSPEL LESSON – Mark 13:24-37 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.³⁵ Therefore stay awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning--³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 51:4-6 "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.⁵ My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm

they wait.⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

CONFESSIO 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: TLH #611:1,3-6

"The Day is Surely Drawing Near"

SERMON – 2 Peter 3:3-9 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Christ is Coming Back for Judgment

- I. Unbelievers scoff, willfully forgetting the evidence of the past.
- II. Let us repent, grateful to escape the Judgment to come.