

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 14-19, '22

Mon Jeremiah 26:8-16 The clergy opposed Jeremiah because he threatened their status, and so they ganged up on him. Jeremiah did not cave in, for God had given him a holy assignment. When the civil authorities were called in, Jeremiah explained God's plan all over again, and they sided with Jeremiah. A good first step. Note: Having skin in the game can make a person biased and on the wrong side of God's enterprise. Lord, have mercy!

Tues Luke 13:31-35 These Pharisees may have had ulterior motives in urging Jesus to get out of town, for Jesus sent them back to their boss to report that He was not intimidated. Rather, He asserted that He would take no shortcuts from reaching His goal of *being perfected* (31-33) via Calvary and the empty tomb. The window of opportunity was closing on Herod, Pharisees, and all Jewry—and who would be the loser? They, not Jesus (34-35).

Wed Philippians 3:17-4:1 *Walking* happens when we take one balanced step after another, moving forward. Here the Apostle Paul encourages us to walk in tandem with other Christians—sharing our balance and stride with others, somewhat like partners in a three-legged gunnysack race. We learn to copy one another's good steps as we march forward together. "I walk with Jesus all the way; my walk is heavenward all the way." We belong together.

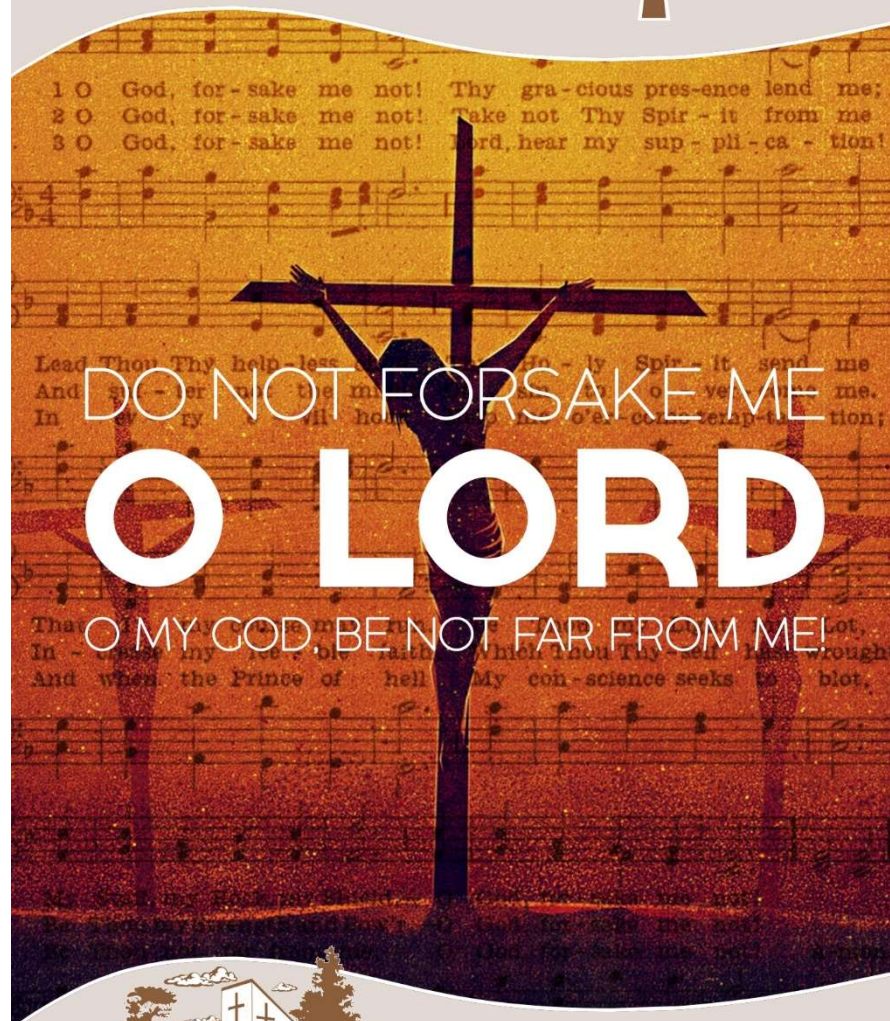
Thurs Jeremiah 26:17-24 Some old-timers had gone through the drill before, and from at least one case they had learned that when people repent, God relents (1). People don't always repent, of course, and that brought to mind another case that ended badly for the prophet (20-23). Now, what about Jeremiah? His case would have ended badly, too, except that Ahikam, prince of Judah, intervened and took Jeremiah into protective custody (24).

Fri Matthew 23:34-39 Every Hebrew knew Zechariah's significance, and true Israelies shuddered at the barbarism of his assassins, who murdered this servant of God while he was conducting a worship service in church! Jerusalem was rotten to the core, and Jesus tried over and over to rescue its people from hellfire. Lord, have mercy on our rotting world, too!

Sat Colossians 2:6-10 and Philippians 3:17-21 in poetic form: (TLH: 413)

My walk is heavenward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, be gone! To heaven I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay!
My walk is heavenward all the way. Amen.

March 13, 2022
2nd Sunday of Lent



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Opening Hymn: TLH #402

"O God, Forsake Me Not"

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

C *♫ Amen.*

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

C Congregation

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.

P 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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

P O 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 has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

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. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♫ Amen.*

Obedient Ears

Isaiah 50:5 (ESV) *The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.*

"Great listener! Follows instructions well!" How would you like to find those evaluations scrawled on your child's report card? Such a review would surely bring you a sigh of relief. This would certainly be preferable to "Inattentive. Likes to have the last word." What would be scrawled on your report card if God was writing it? Perhaps it would say, "Your ears are open, but you do not listen." (Isaiah 42:20)

Unlistening ears characterize a person who does not follow orders. When it comes to the demands of God's Law, isn't that exactly what we do daily? How often do you ignore God's clearly written will, making the excuses, "Just one more time," or, "I'll start doing better tomorrow," or even, "It doesn't matter, I know He'll forgive me anyways." In other words, we *hear* what God says, but we don't always *listen*.

Christ's ears were open, and He listened. This fact indicated that He would do exactly as He had been instructed by His Father. He would not turn backward. Even when His Father's will was that He drink the cup of suffering by dying on the cross, Jesus listened and obeyed. As the perfect listener, He received this glowing review from His Father, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 17:5b)



What would the Father put on your report card? Thanks to Christ, it's not what you deserve! As your substitute, Jesus reversed your deafness. His obedience is counted as yours. The Father now gives this evaluation: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Christ, thank you for Your obedience in my place. Open my ears to listen to You. Amen.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Sermon Hymn: TLH #327

"Out of the Deep I Call"

Prayers, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

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.

G *♫ Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: TLH #155

"Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing"

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 back of the church. 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.

CLC Call News: Teacher Claire Abbas of Gethsemane Lutheran School, Spokane Valley, WA, **has accepted** the call to be the lower grade teacher at Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN. + Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, **has returned** the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL. + Pastor Tom Naumann of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, **has received** the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL. + Mrs. Debra Mayhew **has received** the call to teach grades K-4 at Grace Lutheran School, Sleepy Eye, MN. + Mr. Luke Willitz **is still considering the call to** be the pastor of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN.

3/16 – Bible Class 9a / Lent 7p | 3/17 – Garden View 10:30a

March 6th Offerings:	\$ 1,320.00
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,607.69
General Fund Balance	\$20,660.56
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$24,203.95
Total Cash All Funds	\$60,902.89

The Introit

Ps. 74:1-3; 69:9

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

P For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

G **O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?**

P Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

G **Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

G **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gloria Patri

WS #723:3

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

G *♫* **To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

P O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G *♫* **Amen.**

✠ Scripture Readings ✠

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.' ³³ Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and

the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' ³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. ¹ Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Hymn: TLH #352

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

✠ The Sermon ✠

Psalm 42

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" ⁴ These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival. ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation ⁶ and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. ⁷ Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. ⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹ I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" ¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" ¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

"Soul, Remember the Lord"

I. Doubt gives way to Conviction

III. Despair gives way to Confidence

The Offertory

📖 **♪ 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.**