

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; July 24 - 29, '23

Mon Mark 4:26-29 God rule is not always visible and, as the seed grows even while the farmer is sleeping, so also God's kingdom grows. The farmer does not have to know how the seed grows, blade to grain, for it is the Lord who brings the growth until the much-awaited day of harvest.

Tues 1 Timothy 6:6-12 Although the Kingdom of God is sometimes compared to a farmer and his earthly crops (yesterday's reading), it has far greater promise than the harvests of this world. In fact, focusing too much on earthly wealth can distract one from seeking the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

Wed Isaiah 62:6-9 The LORD, who watch's over His people (Jerusalem), has watchmen, not just to warn of an enemy's approach, but also to pray that the LORD remember His promises and establish His kingdom forever. For this they are to pray without ceasing (v7 cp. 1Thess 5:17).

Thur Isaiah 62:10-12 The prophet urges the people to go out the gates and prepare the highway for the LORD's harvest, as He gathers His people from ends of the earth to His banner. This is the salvation that He has promised, and His people will be known as the redeemed of the LORD.

Fri Colossians 3:12-17 In Christ's Kingdom we are *forgiven* by Christ the King, and want to forgive others. Under God's rule we have the peace of Christ, and want to live in that peace with one another. The *word* of Christ, by which He rules, is also what we want to speak to one another, and walk in *love* (v14).

Sat Matthew 13:24-30 When God rules, His servants may not always understand why He permits bad things to happen or evil to grow for a time in the world, but in the harvest it will be apparent that He was always working for the good of His own precious crop.

July 23, 2023
7th Sunday after Trinity



SO SHALL MY
Word be...



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #296

“Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

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.

C **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.

C **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.

C **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.**

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 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.

Response: TLH #644

“Praise God, from Whom...”

C ♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Bible Class resumed this morning. With pastor's return from Nepal, we are returning to our normal weekly schedule for both Wednesday and Sunday morning Bible Studies. If you haven't been to Bible Class before, please consider taking the time to join your fellow Christians in growing in God's Word. Our regular weekly schedule is as follows:

- **Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School** – 9:00 am
- **Wednesday Bible Class** – 9:30 am

Voters' Meeting Today! We will be having our quarterly voters' meeting today after church. If you are a voter, please be sure to stick around for the meeting!

Kansas City Worship will be held this evening at 5:30 pm.

Man Up! Weekend - The 2023 ManUp! Men's Weekend will be held September 21-24, 2023, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. Register and send in your payment before August 31st for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration increases to \$150 after September 1st. The registration includes lodging and meals. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!

CLC Call News - Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran, Manchester, MO **is considering the call from** Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. <> Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's in Okabena, MN **is considering the call from** Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI.

July 16th Offerings:

Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,679.75
General Fund Balance	\$ 17,219.33
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$37,324.89
Total Cash All Funds	\$69,907.06

of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Jesus Gives Hope in Groaning

- I. In Our Groaning
- II. In Creation's Groaning
- III. In the Spirit's Groaning

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, 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.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Sermon Hymn: TLH #46 *"On What Has Now Been Sown"*

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.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn: TLH #52 *"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"*

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Carol Benter** is continuing her care at New Haven Care Center with prayers of regaining strength and returning home. Please join her in those prayers!
- **Faith Polite** underwent surgery on Friday which had some complications. Please pray for her recovery.
- **Noah Ohlmann** is to be installed next weekend as a Teacher Assistant at Grace Lutheran School in Valentine, NE. Please pray for the Lord's blessings.
- **Pastor Rodebaugh** has received a call to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Pray for his deliberations.

The Introit

Ps. 103:8, 15-19

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

- P** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- C** **As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;**
- P** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- C** **But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,**
- P** to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
- C** **The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH 23:4

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- C** ♪ **Hallelujah! Let praises ring! Unto our Triune God we sing; Blest be His name forever! With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises more and more For all His grace and favor! Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy,— Spread the story; of our God, the Lord of Glory!**

Collect 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.

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And

he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. . . . ¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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 #49

"Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast"

Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind