

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; July 31 – Aug. 05

Mon Matthew 12:46-50 On the path to our salvation, Jesus faces much opposition, from religious and political rulers, from the devil and demons, and even at times from His own, who do not understand. Who is on His side? Those who do the Father's will (v50). "For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 6:40).

Tues Jeremiah 23:16-20 Some might wonder why the LORD would be so angry about people acting as His spokesmen and giving people a kind of "hope." But it was a false hope (v16) and told the people who despised God, in effect, that everything was okay and they didn't need a savior (v17).

Wed Jeremiah 23:21-29 Does it really matter what people believe or trust in, as long as they're religious? God takes it seriously when lies are proclaimed as His word, for the people who trust in those lies are not trusting in the God whose name brings life.

Thur Acts 16:16-18 Why would Jesus' apostle be so troubled when the demon-possessed woman spoke the truth? Just as Jesus would not have an unclean spirit's testimony that He is the holy one of God (Mk1:24-25), so Paul does not want an alliance with an evil spirit, even to proclaim a truth.

Fri Acts 16:19-24 The slave girl possessed by a spirit had been freed, but her human possessors, who had made money from her, saw to it that Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned. This kind of opposition to the Gospel they had faced and overcome many times before (e.g. Acts5:41).

Sat Acts 16:25-32 In the midst of a very dark time, Paul and Silas are praising God for all that dungeons and chains cannot take away from them. The prisoners hear them, and so does God. Soon even the jailor and his family hear the life-giving word of the Lord, and a very dark time is turned to light!

July 30, 2023
8th Sunday after Trinity



The righteous will
shine
like the sun...



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #16

"Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word"

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 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.*

Mission Festival has been scheduled for two weeks from today, Sunday, August 13th. Lydia Ohlmann will be presenting during the Bible Class hour on her trip to Nepal. Missionary Ohlmann will be preaching the sermon for us that day as well. Please be certain to mark the date on your calendars!

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: <http://www.manup.clclutheran.org> and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!



Our Full Bible Class Schedule resumed last Sunday, and I hope you will be able to join us for our study! On Wednesday, we began a study of the book of Acts which will continue for several weeks. Last Sunday, we began studying an excellent paper written by Pastor Tom Naumann titled, "**Giving Courage, Taking Courage: Supporting the Mental Health of our Called Workers.**" The paper has been very well received and is highly recommended reading. If you would like a copy for your own personal study, please speak with Pastor.

CLC Call News - Missionary Peter Evensen **has received the call** from Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX. <> 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 Church in Marquette, MI.

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 ✠

Hymn: TLH #292:1-4, 9 "Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The 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, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: TLH #399:1-4 "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

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 last Friday which had some complications. She is still recovering, but the surgery was deemed successful by the surgeon. Please give a prayer of thanksgiving, also asking for healing.
- **Tim Lewis** is in the hospital and very ill. Please pray that he might regain strength and recover.
- **Julie Yates** is able to walk again and building up her strength. Please pray that the Lord continues to heal.
- **Noah Ohlmann** is to be installed today as a Teacher Assistant at Grace Lutheran School in Valentine, NE. Please pray for the Lord's blessings on his ministry.
- **Pastor Rodebaugh** has received a call to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Pray for his deliberations.

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The Introit

Ps. 86:6, 11-15

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

- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
- C** **Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.**
- P** I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
- C** **For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**
- P** O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.
- C** **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH #250:1

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- C** ♪ **Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee. All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heaven above adore Thee. Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

- P** O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**

Joel 3:12-16

Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. ¹⁶ The LORD roars from

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Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.

1 Peter 4:1-8

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. ⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

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 #605

"The World Is Very Evil"

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'" . . . ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

In Life, There are Winners, and There are Losers

Which ones are we?

