

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; August 14 - 21, '23

Mon Matthew 23:24-33 When Jesus says "Woe!" to the religious leaders who reject Him, it is not a curse but a lamentation. They are the ones bringing sorrow upon themselves and their followers by rejecting the One who creates clean hearts within and makes dead bones live through the prophetic word of forgiveness.

Tues Matthew 23:34-39 Although the religious leaders say they would not have killed the ancient prophets, they stand against the current prophets and the great Prophet who sends them. Jesus mourns for Jerusalem, whose children He wants to gather, but they refuse.

Wed Jeremiah 7:1-11 God sends the prophet Jeremiah to stand in the LORD's House and call people to reform their ways. Although they think they stand safely in the temple, their lives of self-service at the expense of the poor and the weak are not hidden from the LORD and show where their hearts truly are.

Thur Acts 20:17-21 Paul stops on his journey to say farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus. He reminds them that, unlike false prophets who put on a good show, he had served the Lord among them in lowliness, tears, and trials, calling for repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fri Acts 20:22-27 Paul has been warned by the Holy Spirit that chains and afflictions are ahead of him, but this news is not to have him turn away from Jerusalem. Rather he knows that the Lord will be with him and those trials will not stop him from testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Sat Acts 20:28-38 Paul will not see these Ephesian elders again, and leaves them with a warning of trials that are ahead of them, both from "wolves" without and from false brothers within their group. In all that lies ahead, he commends them to God and to the word of His grace.

August 13, 2023
Mission Festival



HERE AM I!

Send me!



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #505:1 "O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness"

C ♪ *O'er the gloomy hills of darkness, Cheered by no celestial ray, Sun of Righteousness, arising, Bring the bright, the glorious day. Let the morning Of Thy blessed Gospel dawn.*

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

C Amen!

P What is the purpose of a mission festival? What is the mission of a church? What is your mission? The answer to those questions is the same: Christ's purpose for believers is to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. There is no higher calling!

Hymn: TLH #505:2 "O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness"

C ♪ *Kingdoms wide that sit in darkness, Grant them, Lord, the glorious light; And from eastern coast to western May the morning chase the night And redemption, Freely purchased, win the day!*

Confession and Absolution

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

P Let us therefore confess and pray:

C **Dear Father in heaven, You are mighty in all You do and say. You have shown Your unflinching love to us even though we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We worship and adore You because You have sacrificed Your only beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, for the full payment and forgiveness of all our sins. As sinful human beings, we often fail to share Your Word and have often been poor examples as Your dear children.**

Forgive us, Lord, for these offenses, and give us the courage and strength to boldly confess and glorify Your name and Your truth to all. Let us walk before You as a light to this dark world. All this we confess and pray in the name of Your Son, our risen and eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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!

Hymn: TLH #508

"Thou Whose Almighty Word"

THANK YOU to Lydia Ohlmann and Missionary Ohlmann for serving the congregation today!

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Carol Benter** has returned home, but has had several setbacks over the past week. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.
- **Tim Lewis** has been discharged from the ICU to a regular hospital room. The Lord has blessed him tremendously in returning his strength and health. Please pray for the Lord's continued blessings on Tim.

CLC Call News: Missionary Evensen **has returned the call** from Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX. <> Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's in Okabena, MN **has returned the call** from Calvary Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI.

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. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!

Sinners...Saved and Sent

Isaiah 6:1-8

Introduction

- What qualities would you expect to find in an ambassador?
- Does anyone, on their own, have the necessary qualifications to be God's ambassador?

Part I – Sinners...

- What does Isaiah do when he steps into God's presence? Why is this the only reasonable response for a sinner?
- What would you expect God's response to be when a sinner steps into His presence?

Part II – Sinners Saved...

- What does God do for Isaiah that he could never do for himself?
- In what way or ways did Isaiah's vision foreshadow the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Part III – Sinners Sent...

- Isaiah responded boldly to God's call for an ambassador. What was the source of his boldness?
- How did God prepare Isaiah to be His ambassador?
- How has God prepared YOU to be His ambassador?

- P** Upon this confession of your sins, by the promise and authority of Christ our Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #505:3

"O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness"

- C** ♪ ***Fly abroad, eternal Gospel; Win and conquer, never cease. May Thy lasting, wide dominions Multiply and still increase! May Thy scepter Sway th' enlightened world around!***

The Introit

Ps. 108:3-5; 105:1

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
- C** **I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.**
- P** For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- C** **Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!**
- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
- 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.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

- P** Almighty God, in Your kindness You cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may rejoice in the gift of Your unending love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All

authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

G *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith

The Explanation to the 2nd Article

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

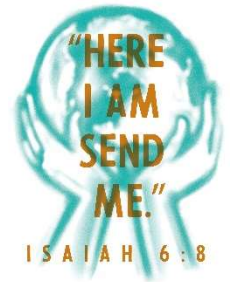
Hymn: TLH #495

"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"

✠ 4 ✠

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." ⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."



Sinners...Saved and Sent

Preaching today is CLC Missionary Todd Ohlmann

The Offertory

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

G *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #496

"Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ 5 ✠