

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 20 - 25, '23

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

-Psalm 119:105

Mon John 10:23-30 Unbelief sometimes pretends that Jesus has not claimed to be the Christ of God. Jesus points to His works in addition to His Word. Both show that it is He who gives eternal life and is one with God the Father.

Tues 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 As Jesus' works testified that He is the Christ (Jn10:25), so the works that God accomplishes in the sanctified lives of His believers also glorify the Son and the Father who sent Him.

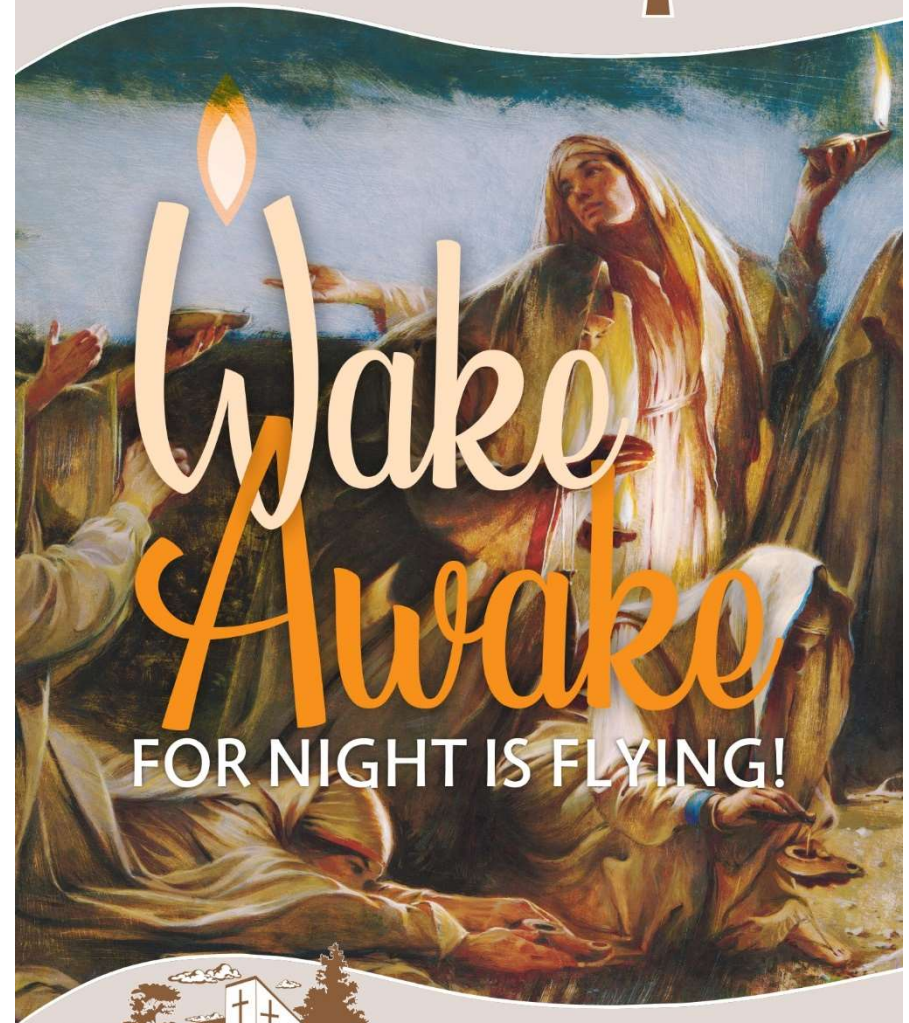
Wed Psalm 39 As we approach the end of another year, we are reminded again of the brief time allotted to us in this life. Those suffering afflictions also face similar thoughts. In this short life, God's enduring goodness remains the source of our solid hope (v7).

Thur John 6:24-29 We have so much more to be thankful for than the food which spoils (v27). We also have Him on whom God has placed His seal of approval and who is worthy of our trust and thanks for all eternity.

Fri 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 The apostle calls upon us to show God's generosity toward us by being generous to others. Because His grace overflowed to us, it will overflow to others through us, resulting in the thanksgiving of many.

Sat Psalm 34:2-9 David invites us to proclaim the greatness of the LORD with him. That greatness consists in His being a Refuge at all times, and letting us taste His sweet deliverance. Thanks be to God!

November 19, 2023
Saints Triumphant



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #606

"O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking"

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 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.

Really there is only ONE Christmas. The Lord's advent ("coming") in the flesh to die for sin and set the world free from sin happened only once. And let's be thankful for that. As the days and years roll by, we see a life filled with distractions that take us away from a proper focus on God's righteous will. We sin every hour. Thanks be to God that He sent His Son in the flesh to rightly take our place and set us free from the guilt that burdens us – Once and for All. Because Jesus is the Son of God, there only needs to be ONE Christmas.

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ... But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God ... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:10,12,14)

This ONE Christmas event is ours now as we believe what the Bible says – that this Man, the Son of God, has taken away all our sins. This isn't a gift that depends on us – neither is it lost by many sins, nor is it gained by our appreciation and works. God's in-flesh atonement is ONCE FOR ALL. What happened so long ago is yours today; it is yours throughout December; it is yours throughout all our life. Resting daily in Jesus through repentance and faith, this ONCE FOR ALL comes to us again and again, pouring out the forgiveness we need. In Him, no lie or distraction of Satan will ever snatch away what has been given. Every time we draw near God's Word and Sacrament we receive a ONCE-in-a-lifetime gift that is re-gifted endlessly.

As the days roll by, let's not allow Satan to overshadow this great gift in just another busy holiday. Invite someone to church with you this Advent, as we prepare for our Savior's Christmas arrival. Invite someone to our Christmas Service! It may seem a small gesture, yet it is important work, for He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Thanksgiving Service – Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm.

No Bible Class Wednesday – With the Thanksgiving Eve service being held Wednesday evening, the decision was made to cancel the usual Wednesday morning Bible Class.



Advent Schedule – As we have done in the past, our midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesday mornings during our usual Wednesday morning Bible Class Hour at 9:30 am. Services will be held on the following Wednesdays:

- December 6th @ 9:30 am
- December 13th @ 9:30 am
- December 20th @ 9:30 am

Kansas City Worship will be held today at 5:30 pm in Independence, MO.

The next scheduled Kansas City Area Worship will be held on **December 17th** at 5:30 pm. Services are held monthly at:

Staybridge Suites
19400 East 39th Place,
Independence, MO 64057

CLC Call News – Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen's Lutheran of Mt. View, CA **has returned** the call from Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran of Vernon, British Columbia, **has returned** the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

Advent Approaches – We look forward with great joy and anticipation for the coming of our Savior yet again this year. But as the days roll on... the years roll on... is this just another Christmas full of busy schedules and scheduling busyness... Is it just another of many Decembers this world has seen?

The Introit

Ps. 143:1-2, 5-6, 10-11

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

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- G** **Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.**
- P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.
- G** **I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**
- P** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
- G** **For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**
- 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

LSB #685:1

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- G** ♪ **Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

- P** Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:1-6

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O

Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. ² Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. ³ For thus says the LORD: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money." ⁴ For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. ⁵ Now therefore what have I here," declares the LORD, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the LORD, "and continually all the day my name is despised. ⁶ Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am."

Revelation 19:1-9

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in

heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ² for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." ³ Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." ⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

*I come, O Savior, to Thy Table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

After the distribution, we will continue with the following verse:

☞ ♪ What can I say, To ever thank Him for His grace?

**I'll take my place, Among His saints,
And join my tongue in word and song.
Oh, taste and see, Praise God with me!**

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

☞ 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.

☞ ♪ Amen, amen, a – men.

Hymn: TLH #48 "How Blest Are They Who Hear God's Word"

P What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C The words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that God gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation through the Sacrament.

P For where there is forgiveness of sins,

C There is also life and salvation!

C ♪ *So who am I, That I should live and He should die,
Under the rod. My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
Oh taste and see- the Lord is free.*

P How can eating and drinking do such wonderful things?

C Eating and drinking actually do nothing. It is the words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” which do this.

P These words, together with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main part of the Sacrament.

C Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

C ♪ *Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear.
In mouth and soul, He makes us whole-
Christ, truly present in this meal.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is real.*

P When is one properly prepared to receive this Sacrament?

C Customs in connection with eating and clothing are indeed a fine preparation.

P However, a person is truly worthy and well-prepared who has faith in these words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

C Whoever does not believe these words is unworthy and unprepared. The words, “for you,” require nothing but believing hearts.

C ♪ *Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe, That I receive,
His very body and His blood.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is good.*

fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: WS #703

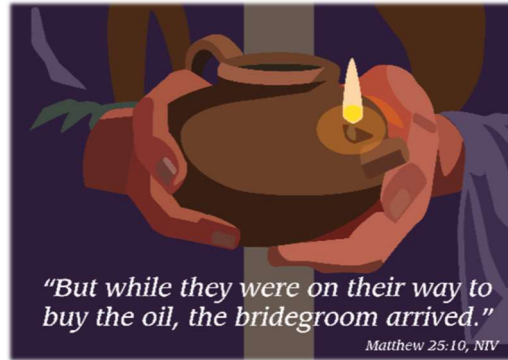
“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the

wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



Keeping Your Lamps Well-Trimmed and Burning

- I. The foolish one puts off filling the oil until tomorrow
- II. The Wise One fills your oil so that you may live "tomorrow"



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 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 #609

"Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠



The Order of Holy Communion



- P** Holy Communion is called the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Table, and the Sacrament of the Altar. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C** **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us Christians under the bread and wine to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.**

Responses: WS #755

"What Is This Bread?"

- C** *♫ What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is peace.*

✠ The Institution of the Lord's Supper ✠

- P** But where is this written?
- C** **The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul write this way:**
- P** "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'
- C** **In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying,**
- P** 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

- C** *♫ What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace, Brings His embrace,
Of life and love, And so I sing:
Oh taste and see- The Lord is King.*

