

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

July 22nd – 27th, '24

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
-Psalm 119:105

Mon Mark 8:34-38 Jesus calls to both crowd and disciples. To follow Him is to walk not the way of comfort but of the cross (instrument of death). To avoid the way of the cross is to lose the life that He came to give us.

Tues Acts 16:12-15 Luke has joined Paul's group of missionaries and tells how the Lord called to Lydia by the riverbank and opened her heart to receive the Gospel. Both she and her household are baptized, and she wants to serve the cause.

Wed Exodus 3:1-14 The Lord calls to Moses from a burning bush which is not consumed. It is the right time to answer His people's cries for help. They will be saved from Egypt through Moses, but it will be the great "I Am" who will save them.

Thurs Isaiah 54:7-8 A picture worth repeating: The Lord calls to His people like a bridegroom speaking to His wayward and restored bride. In everlasting mercy He will have compassion on them. He is their Redeemer, the Lord.

Fri Isaiah 54:9-10 God calls to His people as He spoke to Noah after the flood. His mercy is everlasting, and even if there is no mountain to set one's foot upon, yet His mercy will not be removed, His covenant of peace will remain.

Sat Isaiah 54:11-13 The Lord calls to His people as to a ruined city. Even the lowliest parts of your buildings will sparkle with sapphires and rubies. Even your boundaries will shine with precious gems. All your children will be taught by the Lord.

July 21, 2024
8th Sunday after Trinity



HE WHO
HAS MY WORD,
LET HIM SPEAK
MY WORD
FAITHFULLY.



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #290

“We Have a Sure Prophetic Word”

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 & need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 48:1, 3, 9-11, 14

P We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

C **As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.**

P Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

C **Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.**

P Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!

C **This is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.**

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (EHV) – “But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. Indeed, who among men knows a man’s thoughts except the man’s spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God’s thoughts except God’s Spirit.”

Tim “The Toolman” Taylor (from the sitcom Home Improvement, 1991-1999) said, “Real Men don’t need instructions.” As a red-blooded American man I agree with that sentiment, even if I have to go back to Menards at least 4 times to complete a project. We may not need instructions, but we do occasionally need some direction. The Holy Spirit gives us that direction in the above verses.

The verse before our text tell us that no mind can conceive what God has prepared for those who love Him—this God reveals to through His Spirit (in His Word). I love the logical progression in these verses. I love the fact that God doesn’t leave us to guess, He gives us direction. God doesn’t tell us to ask a wise man. He doesn’t tell us we need “more power” like ‘The Toolman’ would say. He would have us sit still and listen to Him. He doesn’t ask us to understand everything. He asks us to take Him at His Word.

So even as you can’t know what I’m thinking—unless I tell you—so, we can’t know what God is thinking and planning unless He tells us. Where we don’t know everything (even though we may think so), the Spirit of God does know everything, especially the thoughts and plans of God. There is no one better equipped to tell us than the Spirit of God.

The Spirit of God reveals to us (in the Bible, God’s Word) what God has prepared for those who love Him. He tells us that He solved the problem of sin by making His Son accountable for sin. He suffered and died to free us from the demands and condemnation of the righteous Law of God. He has prepared a place for us apart from sin, death and sorrow.

Best of all, He tells us how to get there. Jesus is the Way. I may not know very much, but I do know that Jesus loves me.

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 #395:1-3, 7

"O God, Thou Faithful God"

Voters' Meeting – We will be having our quarterly voters' meeting today after the service.

Kansas City Worship – The next Kansas City-area worship service will be held next Sunday at 5:30 pm.

Wedding Reminder – Noah Ohlmann and Erica Oster will be wedded in Eau Claire, WI on August 3rd, 2024. The congregation is invited to the ceremony. Even if you are unable to attend, please remember the couple in your prayers, both now as they make final preparations and for the days of their married lives!

Upcoming Schedule – I will be preaching at Noah and Erica's wedding in two weeks. As such, I will not be here on Sunday, August 4th. Here is the schedule for the surrounding week:

- **July 31st** – Regular Wednesday Bible Class @ 9:30 am
- **August 4th** – Sunday Worship @ 10 am; No Bible Class
- **August 7th** – No Wednesday Bible Class

CLC Call News: Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen West, Mountain View, CA and St. Stephen East, Hayward, CA has **accepted** the call to Messiah Lutheran, Hales Corners, WI following Pastor Michael Eichstadt's retirement in September. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd in Rapid City, SD has **returned** the call to Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN. <> Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's, Okabena, MN has announced that he will be **retiring** at the end of the year.

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

P Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; 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 7:15-23

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'”

Acts 20:27-38

I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to

C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es
tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your
bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

The Words of Institution Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

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."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "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 whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
 blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
 part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
 tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

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 ✠

give than to receive." 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

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

☪ 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 Apostles' Creed

☪ 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 #292:1-4, 8-9

"Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide"

Jeremiah 23:19-29

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. 17 They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace"; And to everyone who walks

according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" 18 For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? 19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury-- A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. 20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. 21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. 22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings. 23 "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? 24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. 25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' 26 "How long will *this* be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart, 27 "who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. 28 "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. 29 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?"

"It Shall Be Well With You"

I. Thus say the "prophets" II. Thus says the LORD

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: WS #759

"These Are the Facts"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠



P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Order of Holy Communion



C: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho-



san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly



blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!