

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

October 28th – November 3rd, '24

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

Mon Luke 10:17-20 When the Lord sent out seventy-two to prepare for His coming, they returned rejoicing in the victory over Satan which He shared with them. He points them to a cause for joy far greater!

Tues Luke 10:21-22 Jesus rejoices that knowing God as Father does not depend on human wisdom or intellect, but is given by God through His Son even to little children.

Wed James 5:7-11 As we wait for the Lord's return, James urges us all to exercise patience, not only toward the Lord who comes, but also toward one another and in the face of suffering.

Thurs John 8:30-36 During these days we remember Martin Luther's joy to discover that God has called us His children, and freed us from our sins.

Fri Hebrews 13:7-9 We remember Martin Luther, although he is gone, because he brought us to Jesus, who remains the same yesterday and today and forever (v8).

Sat Zephaniah 3:14-20 The Lord's glorious grace promises rescue for His people. "The Lord your God is with you as a hero who will save you" (v17). What joy then to learn that God is our Father!

October 27, 2024
Reformation Sunday



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #776

"Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You"

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 119

- P** Oh LORD, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
G You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.
P I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.
G I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts.
P How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
G Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
P Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

G *♪ Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.*

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 2

- P** Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?
G The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
P Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
G "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."
P He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.
G Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:
P "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

before an important election in our nation. In Isaiah 45 the Lord announces that He has anointed Cyrus to free His captive people and aid them in returning to their homeland. Incredibly, God names this Persian king well over 100 years before He is even born. What also demonstrates the Lord's complete control over the affairs of men is that Cyrus was not a believer. He did not acknowledge the Lord as the one true God. Yet that did not prevent God from using him for His saving purposes. In fact, Cyrus, as the one "anointed" by the Lord, became a type of Christ, the "Anointed One" who would deliver a world of sinners from captivity to sin and death.

It is reassuring to know that the fate of our nation does not ultimately lie in the hands of millions of voters or in the decisions and actions of whoever is elected president in a few weeks. God's Word still stands: *"I am the LORD, and there is no other"* (Is. 45:5). Nothing happens apart from His will. *"I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster"* (45:7). *"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes"* (Dan. 4:17).

The Lord encourages us to bring all our concerns for our nation to Him with the confidence that His will is always good, and His will is always done for the eternal wellbeing of His people. In his letter to the exiles in Babylon, Jeremiah wrote, *"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper"* (Jer. 29:7).

Having been redeemed from sin and death and given new life through Jesus' sacrifice, how could we doubt that *"He who did not spare his own Son...will graciously give us all things?"* (Rom. 8:32). May we then both as individuals and as congregations of believers go to the Lord's throne with prayers for His sovereign and gracious will to be accomplished in our lives and in our nation.

- Retired CLC Pastor Michael Eichstadt

name “Lutheran,” that does not mean we worship Martin Luther. In 1519, “Lutheran” was a derogatory slur used against Martin Luther by the German Scholastic theologian Dr. Johann Eck during their debate in Leipzig, Germany. The Catholics followed the practice of naming a heretical group after its leader, and so Eck and all Catholics began using “Lutheran” as an offensive word to describe anyone who followed the teachings of Martin Luther.

What were those teachings? Simply put, they're God's teachings—that we are saved by God's free **Grace Alone**; justified through **Faith Alone** apart from our works; and the basis for our hope of salvation is **Scripture Alone**. These ought to be truths eagerly proclaimed by anyone who would call themselves Christian; sadly that is not the case. Nevertheless, this is what we believe and hold fast to, not because it was taught by Luther, but because it was taught by Christ Himself.

So what is a Lutheran? A Lutheran is a Christian. A Lutheran believes strongly that all Christian teachings should come from the Bible, because it is the very Word of God. A Lutheran believes that God's Word ought to be taken very seriously, as everything God says is correct and true. A Lutheran recognizes what God teaches us in His Word: that we are all sinners deserving damnation in hell, but that we are forgiven solely because Christ died to take away our sins. A Lutheran believes that this free gift of salvation is acquired by the individual through faith in Jesus as Savior—and that this faith only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, as God tells us! In short, a Lutheran is a follower of Christ who depends entirely upon His grace and redeeming work, totally apart from any works, feelings, or decisions that we could attempt to contribute! *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast!”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

On the Election – In studying the prophet Isaiah's words from 700 BC, I can't think of a more appropriate message just days

**☩ 🎵 Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.**

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 31

- P** In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.
- ☩** **Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge a fortress of defense to save me.**
- P** For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.
- ☩** **Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength.**
- P** Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.



**☩ 🎵 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.**

- P** God our Father has preserved His Word for us. It is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Our Lord Jesus has made His power known. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father and will come to judge the world. God the Holy Spirit has extended God's grace to us through Word and Sacrament. But we have not kept the Word of our Lord. I now ask you, therefore, before God who searches the heart: Do you confess the sins you have committed in thought, word, and deed; do you repent of them, believe on the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to lead a godly life from now on?
- ☩** **I do so confess, believe, and intend with the help of God.**

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto you. In the stead of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Let us praise our gracious God!

G *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

P Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

2 Chronicles 29:15-19

[The Levites] gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as

the king had commanded, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. ¹⁶ The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron. ¹⁷ They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. ¹⁸ Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. ¹⁹ All the utensils that King Ahaz

Thank You for everything. For all of the loving support, the fellowship, for adopting my family into yours—all I can say is thank you. It's been a tremendous blessing to serve this congregation and to get to know you all so well. Departing is extremely difficult. However, just as the Lord has blessed our time among you, I am certain that the Lord will continue to bless Faith Lutheran Church. My prayers will continue to be with you as you seek a new pastor, and the Lord will provide one in due time. I love you all, and we will miss you greatly.

Until a New Pastor Arrives there will be no Wednesday or Sunday morning Bible Classes. Sunday morning worship will continue as normal. Moving forward, other details regarding the worship schedule will be announced at the appropriate time. As always, please keep this pastoral vacancy in your prayers, asking that the Lord would provide a new pastor soon. And know this: even though we do not yet know who the next pastor will be, the Lord certainly does already know!

Pastor Tim Daub is safely back home with his family. Give thanks to the Lord for taking care of Tim during a very uncertain time and for reuniting him with his family!

2025 CLC Mission Helper Trip - Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply early. Speak to Pastor Rodebaugh for more information, or find information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

CLC Call News – Pastor Sam Rodebaugh will be **installed** at St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN on November 10, 2024. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA **is considering** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

What is a Lutheran? Many Christians today might not know what a Lutheran is. "Is that a cult?" "What's the difference between that and Christian?" While we proudly bear the

C For zeal to spread the message of salvation in Christ alone,
We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.

P And with grateful hearts we raise our voices to proclaim,

C "The just shall live by faith." Amen.

P And we unite in singing the Lord's Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer *Sung to the Tune of "How Firm a Foundation"*

C *♩ Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us From heaven's high throne.*

*The bread that we yearn for Provide us each day;
As we forgive others, Our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear,*

*For yours is the kingdom; O'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; All things You maintain.
To You be the glory, Resounding again
From all of creation, Forever! Amen.*

The Benediction: *followed by the "Amen" from TLH 458:9
The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

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, that is, So shall it be. Confirm our faith and hope in Thee That we may doubt not, but believe What here we ask we shall receive. Thus in Thy name and at Thy word We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!*

Closing Hymn: TLH #377:1-6 *"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"*



discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD."

John 2:13-17

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Galatians 2:16-21

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.



Confession of Faith

Justification by Faith

We boldly confess what we believe using the following words from the Formula of Concord — on Justification by Faith.

“We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God:

A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own.

This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel.

Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God’s gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved.”

Hymn: TLH #373

“By Grace I’m Saved”

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God

of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

“For Us Fights the Valiant One”

The Offertory

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

- ☩ **♫ 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 #262

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Responsive Reformation Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

- ☩ For sending your Son to rescue the human race from sin, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- ☩ For sending your Spirit to lead us to repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- ☩ For teaching us that our righteous acts are filthy rags, We thank and praise You also, O Lord, for the gift of Jesus’ righteousness.
- ☩ For guiding women and men like Martin Luther to understand the scriptural truth, “The just shall live by faith,” We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- ☩ For blessing the spread of the gospel through the Reformation during these last 507 years, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- ☩ For loyalty to hold to Your truth and remain Your true disciples, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.
- ☩ For boldness to confess Your truth in a fallen world, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.