

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 28-Oct. 3, '20.

Mon Genesis 50:15-21 It seems a round-about way to ask for forgiveness (claiming it was their father's request), but Joseph took it at face value. Joseph had a generous view of his experiences: You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them from his forgiving heart. No recriminations, but warm hugs; no guilt trips, but gentleness. They received better than they deserved—which reminds us of our own situation with the God whom we serve and represent to others.

Tues Matthew 18:21-35 Evidently Peter was leery of overdoing a good thing (21), so Jesus clarified (22) and composed a story to illustrate. We sinners must start with the realization that our indebtedness to God is so great that we can't possibly pay it off, and time-payments won't work, either, so God takes the matter out of our hands entirely (25-27). The rest of the parable is a scary warning against not loving our neighbors enough to forgive their sins.

Wed Romans 14:5-9 Back in the first century Christian congregations had members who had been raised Jewish, so Saturday was their customary day of worship, and kosher foods seemed right, too (5-7). Since that was OK with God, it was OK with gentile Christians. The child of God is generous about such things. We get along with one another, for we live together as God's children, and we thrive together under Jesus' lordship (8-9).

Thurs Psalm 103 Since we tend to be forgetful, let's remind ourselves how we stand with God (1-7). Because He is who He is, God has not dealt with us as we deserve (8-10) but chooses to rise above (11-13), pitying us for our lost condition (14). In contrast to our fragility (15-16), God's mercy is eternal (17-19). Therefore we join the angels and all His works in praising the LORD.

Fri Luke 10:25-28 Our salvation is based on debits and credits, for our sin-debits must be paid off with God-pleasing credits. Praise God that He is generous enough to credit us with Jesus' righteousness, and that closes our account. Is that OK with you? It's fine with me, and I thank Jesus for living His perfect life and for dying as my Substitute. [See also Romans 3:23-26.]

Sat Acts 17:1-9 The Holy Spirit was working on folks who were well versed in the Bible and its Messianic prophecies. We are told that Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures, presenting evidence that Jesus matched the prophecies, so He qualified as Messiah. Paul explained God's program of salvation, demonstrating (from the Bible) that the only way humans can escape their doom is to turn from Self to Jesus' blood and righteousness (2-3). Some got convinced. Note: When He is working on adults, the Spirit engages the brain in order to gain access to the soul.

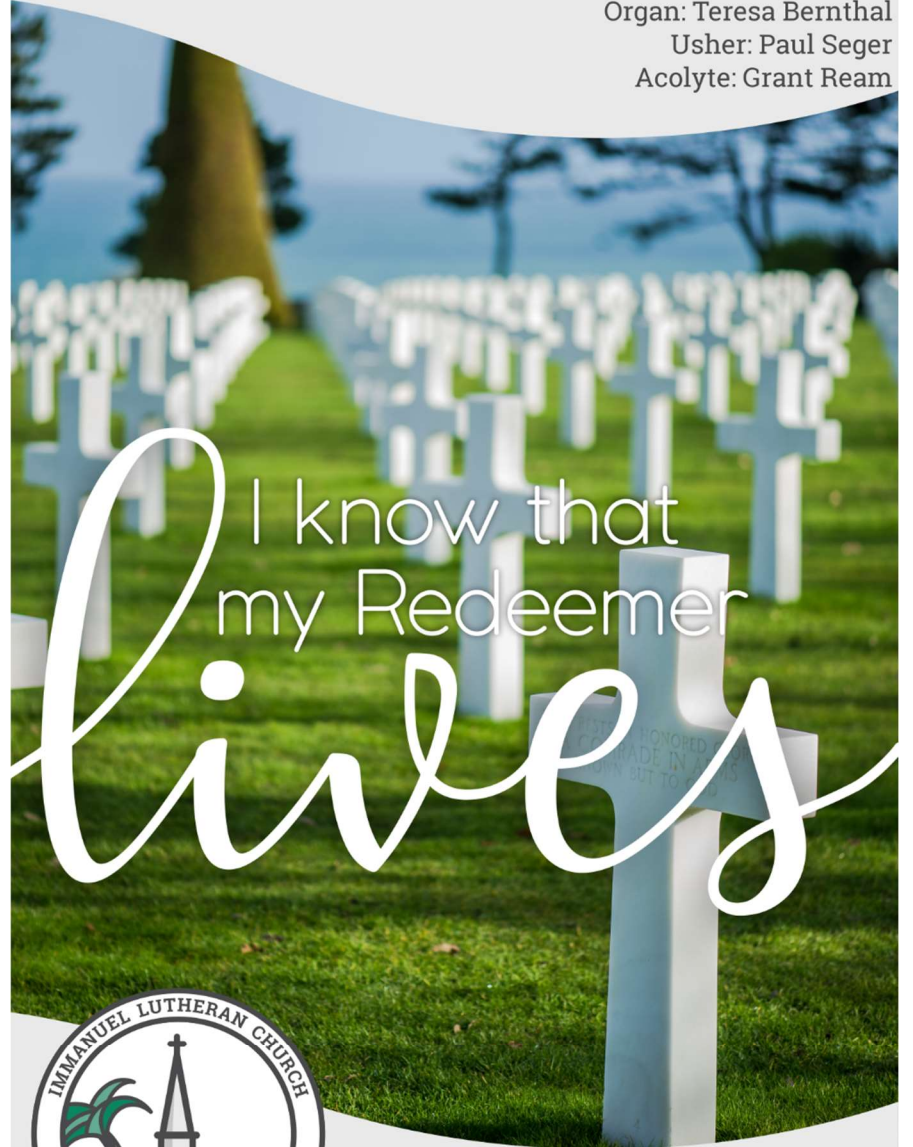
September 27, 2020

Trinity 16

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Grant Ream



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 95:1-7a

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #27:1-4

"Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul!"

- 1. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.**
- 2. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!**
- 3. 'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.**
- 4. He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sovereign power to save.**

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

C **♫ A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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. 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P 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.

Scripture tells us that along with the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, we also receive the actual body and blood of our Savior. In this special way, God "seals" to each individual the forgiveness of sins, much as a person would seal a letter, making it very personal - to be opened by him or her alone. Also, Paul says, coming to the Lord's Supper regularly is one way we witness the truth of the Gospel to our fellow believers, "...*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*" (1 Cor. 11:26).

In these and many other ways, God encourages us through His Word to make regular use of the Means of Grace - the Gospel in Word and Sacraments. On the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached God's Word to the crowds in Jerusalem, three thousand people came to faith in Christ and were baptized. What did these new believers do then? "*They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*" (Acts 2:42). Let us take advantage of the same precious fellowship, too...by attending church services as often as we can!

A Telling Tale

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them... So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time, my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If I had not eaten those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

***I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go into the house of the LORD."***

(Ps. 122:1)

a grape vine. The more firmly the branch is attached, the more life-giving nutrients it can receive from the vine, and the more fruit it can bear. On the other hand, a branch that is cut off from the vine soon withers and dies. *"I am the vine, you are the branches," Jesus said. "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered."* (John 15:5-6). Our weekly church services are designed specifically to strengthen your connection with the Savior. The closer you can keep to God's Word, the more you'll find your faith - and your Christian life - growing and bearing more fruit.

There are always some who object, "Yes, but I can read my Bible at home. I don't have to come to church to hear God's Word!" That's true, of course, and we should all take time to study the Bible at home. But there are some things that you can get from church that you can't get from personal Bible study - and one of them is **fellowship**.

"Do not be unwise," says St. Paul, "but understand what the will of the Lord is." And the Lord's will concerning our faith lives is that we get together with other believers on a regular basis to hear God's Word, to thank and praise Him, and to encourage one another in the faith. In the book of Hebrews we read, *"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching!"* (Heb. 10:24-25). The encouragement that comes from worshipping together is like a fire that warms both ourselves and those with whom we worship. For our own good, and for the good of our fellow Christians, God warns us not to let our attendance at public worship services slide!

There are other advantages to attending church regularly. One is **confession and absolution**. Every Sunday, during our liturgy, each person confesses his sins before God, in repentance removing the load of guilt that has been weighing on his or her conscience. Then the pastor pronounces the "absolution," or forgiveness of sins. He does this according to the words of Jesus, *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."* (John 20:23). Of course, you can confess your sins and get forgiveness from God any day of the week. But it is especially comforting to join in confession with your fellow believers, and hear God's direct word of forgiveness to you, spoken out loud by the pastor.

One very special way that we receive the assurance of the forgiveness of sins in church is through the Sacrament of the Altar - **the Lord's Supper**.

G O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

G ♪ **A - - - men.**

INTROIT

2 Pet. 3:13; Ps. 39

P In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

G O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

P Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before You.

G And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

G Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

P For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Rev. 22:13

- P** Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

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

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

- C** ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

- P** Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** ♪ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 32:39-43 "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. ⁴⁰ For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, ⁴¹ if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. ⁴² I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh-- with the blood of the slain

Last Week (9/20) WH – 23

General = \$1,260 | Building = \$15

Oct. Usher: Seger

Total Offering = \$1,275

| Cleaner (10/3): Rodebaugh

| Acolyte (10/4): Mason K.



Why Go to Church?

...for the Word

...for fellowship

...for confession and absolution

...for the Lord's Supper

The most important reason to attend your weekly church services is to hear the Word of God. The Bible tells us that a regular diet of His Word is more important to our spiritual health than food is to our physical health. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he told the Devil, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matt 4:4). We need **God's Word** to live!

It's a sad fact, though, that many people consider church services to be a minor part of their weekly schedule - something they can omit if another activity comes up, or if they need extra sleep. According to the Bible, coming to hear God's Word isn't just one part of our lives...it's the very foundation that the rest of our life is built on! Jesus said, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." (Matt 7:24-25). If we want to make our lives more secure, from the ground up, the regular hearing of God's Word is the right place to start!

Someone once said that a believer's faith never stands still - it is always either growing...or fading. Jesus said just about the same thing when he described His relationship with every individual believer. He said the relationship of a Christian to his Savior is like that of a branch attached to

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: WS #759

“These Are the Facts”

1. **These are the facts as we have received them, These are the truths that the Christian believes, This is the basis of all of our preaching, Christ died for sinners and rose from the tomb.**
2. **These are the facts as we have received them, Christ has fulfilled what the scriptures foretold, Adam’s whole fam’ly in death had been sleeping, Christ through His rising restores us to life.**
3. **These are the facts as we have received them, We with our Savior have died on the cross, Now having risen, our Jesus lives in us, Gives us His Spirit and makes us His home.**
4. **These are the facts as we have received them, We shall be changed in the blink of an eye, Trumpets shall sound as we face life immortal, This is the vict’ry through Jesus, our Lord.**

✠ Announcements ✠

Bible Class will continue this Wednesday evening on Zoom. If you haven’t joined yet, I encourage you to take time to do so!

Shut-in/Encouragement

List Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Bill**

Issitt III remains mostly housebound due to poor health. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Crystal Shaw** recently had a heart operation recently and is recovering. **Bill Hartmann’s** health is deteriorating quickly. **Bob Doriot** recently underwent hip replacement and is awaiting another hip surgery. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain. **Mr. Beymer** is still quarantined at Southern Gardens. **Belinda King** is struggling through a prolonged respiratory illness that has greatly affected her ability to continue working as a nurse. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. **Loye Issitt** is building back her strength. **David Kleinschmidt** is in a rehabilitation facility going through physical therapy.

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Sept. 30:** Zoom Bible Class 6:30p
- ✠ **Oct. 4:** Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ **Oct. 4:** Communion Service
- ✠ **Oct. 4:** Boards of Elders/Ed
- ✠ **Oct. 18:** Trustees/Council
- ✠ **Nov. 1:** Voters’ Meeting

and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.’⁴³ "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land."

GOSPEL READING – John 11:19-45 And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"³⁸ Then Jesus,



deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #355

"Thou Art the Way; to Thee Alone"

1. Thou art the Way; to Thee alone From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.
2. Thou art the Truth; Thy Word alone True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind And purify the heart.
3. Thou art the Life; the rending tomb Proclaims Thy conquering arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee Nor death nor hell shall harm.
4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life; Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that Life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.

SERMON – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Nightmare is Over: "Christ is Arisen!"

- I. Rest easy knowing what Christ has done
- II. Rest easy knowing what Christ will do

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, 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.

HYMN: TLH #218:1-2,5-6

"See, the Conqueror Mounts"

1. See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph; See the King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, To His heavenly palace gate!
Hark, the choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heavenly King.
2. Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies,--He hath gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He hath vanquished sin and Satan; He by death hath spoiled His foes.
5. Thou hast raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heavenly places, There with Thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
Mighty Lord, in Thine ascension We by faith behold our own.
6. Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son,
Dying, risen, ascending for us, Who the heavenly realm hath won.
Glory to the Holy Spirit! To One God in Persons Three
Glory both in earth and heaven, Glory, endless glory, be.