

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 16-21, '20.

Mon Isaiah 52:1-6 The midnight hour is approaching us, too, when Jesus takes us home with Him, so *wake up, captives* of planet Earth! Since we have *sold ourselves cheaply*, Jesus sold Himself to compensate (3). When it seems we are as bad off with our pandemic as Jews were with their exile, remember that God and is on top of our predicaments. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, before Your saints lose their/our grip on Your grace and mercy! Amen.

Tues Matthew 25:1-13 It was a bride's waiting game (When would her man arrive and take her to his home?), so her friends stayed up all night to keep her company. The point Jesus is making: be prepared to burn midnight oil if you want to share in the festivities (10). The girls who had a second, reserve jar of oil were the smart ones (4). Now, what does the oil represent? Probably saving faith that equips God's saints for the long haul.

Wed 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Interested in how Judgment Day plays out? First, Jesus descends from heaven; then He awakens the dead from their sleep; then the newly awakened/resurrected persons join up with the saints still alive, and the entire crowd levitates into the sky to meet Jesus and begin heavenly life with Him. That way, no saint comes in second-best (13-15).

Thurs Psalm 84 Everybody values home, for home is where the heart is. We are at home with God everywhere we worship Him (1-4); all else are just stop-overs (5-7). O Lord, please work things out so that we may assemble again and join in corporate worship! Better yet, abide with us all the days of our pilgrimage and hasten Your return to all waiting saints. Thank You.

Fri Luke 20:27-40 Marriage is good for humanity because the next generation starts with babies born to husband and wife (27-34). Now then, since nobody in heaven gets old and nobody dies, there's no need for procreation via marriage (34-36). Back at square one: heaven is not a graveyard, but the home of saints alive and functional (37-38). Case closed.

Sat Acts 18:24-28 Apollos (now among the saints in heaven) was not only well educated and *eloquent* (Alexandria in Egypt was his home town, a city renowned for its library and universities), he was also *educated and eloquent* with God's Word (24-25). Nonetheless, the most learned person can learn from others (26) so that the Holy Spirit can use His saints to prove *from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth is the Chosen One* (27-28). Bottom line: God interacts with mortals via His Word, both Old and New Testaments, and we are His spokespersons. He who has ears, let him hear what Jesus has done to sin and hell—to redeem sinners and take His saints home to heaven. Amen!

November 15, 2020

Trinity 23

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Landon Goodwin

“I HAVE STRETCHED
OUT MY HANDS
ALL DAY LONG
TO A REBELLIOUS
PEOPLE.”



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

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

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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!

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

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

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, amen, a – men.

HYMN: WS #777

"Grace Has a Thrilling Sound"

1. Grace has a thrilling sound To each believer's ear;
That peace with God through Christ is found Is news I gladly hear.
Grace first devised the way To save our fallen race;
The Father sent His only Son Who came to take our place.
2. Grace first inscribed my name In God's eternal book,
And grace has brought me to the Lamb, Who all my sorrows took.
Grace led my wand'ring feet To tread the heav'nly road,
And grace supplies each hour I meet While pressing on to God.
3. Grace taught my soul to pray And made my eyes o'erflow;
His grace has kept me to this day And will not let me go.
Grace all our work shall crown Through everlasting days;
The heav'nly home God gives His own Shall echo with our praise.

✠ Announcements ✠

Desi Naumann Update

A few months ago, I alerted you to the health of our sister-in-Christ, Desi Naumann. She is beginning home hospice care on Monday. I would request your prayers for her family. **Psalm 37:5** "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ Nov. 15: Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ Nov. 18: Zoom Bible Class 6:30 pm
- ✠ Nov. 22: Orlando Service 8 am
- ✠ Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Service 10:15
- ✠ Nov. 29: Masks-on Service 9 am

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. Bill Hartmann's health is deteriorating quickly. Paulette Galstad is suffering through bad back pain. Mr. Beymer is still quarantined at Southern Gardens. Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. Loye Issitt is building back her strength. David Kleinschmidt is rehabbing at home.

Last Week WH – 26 Orlando – 11

General = \$720 | Property Improvement = \$20 **Total Offering** = \$1,175

Nov. Usher: Darrin | **Cleaner (11/20):** Ream | **Acolyte (11/21):** Grant

SERMON – Matthew 21:23-32 ²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Resistance (Against God’s Love) is Futile

- I. False Obedience is Resisting God’s Love
- II. Resistance Cannot Change God’s Love

OFFERTORY

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

C *♩* 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: WS #709

“God Loves Me Dearly”

1. God loves me dearly, grants me salvation; God loves me dearly, loves even me.
2. I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness; God’s love was working to make me free.
3. He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer; He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
4. Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.

Refrain: Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, loves even me.

for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **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.

C *♩* **A - - - men.**

INTROIT

Ps. 30:1-5

P I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

C **O LORD, my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.**

P O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

C **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to His holy name.**

P For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

C **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for “Glory be to the Father”

C 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*Rom. 9:15*

P Alleluia. "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 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. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 – Isaiah 65:1-2

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name. ² I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices.



EPISTLE READING – Romans 11:25-32 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; ²⁷ "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." ²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

CONFESSION OF FAITH*The Apostles' Creed*

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 #465:1,3-4**"Christ is Our Corner-Stone"**

- 1. Christ is our Corner-Stone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heaven are filled. On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.**
- 3. Here, gracious God, do Thou Forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow And mark each suppliant sigh. In copious shower On all who pray Each holy day, Thy blessing pour.**
- 4. Here may we gain from heaven The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once given, Be with us evermore Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away!**