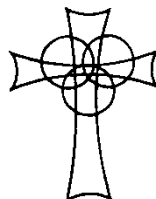


MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712*



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*A Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Twenty-Third Week after Pentecost
November 11, 2020



Service of the Word in the Time of the Closing of the Church Year

✠ In the Name of Jesus! ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1 and 63:7

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** You have been my help,
C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** ¹O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!
- C** ²**Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**
- P** ³Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
keep watch over the door of my lips!
- C** ⁴**Do not let my heart incline to any evil,
to busy myself with wicked deeds
in company with men who work iniquity,
and let me not eat of their delicacies!**
- P** ⁸But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord;
in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: ²a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil. ³If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. ⁴For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. ⁵Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. ⁶Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

⁷All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. ⁸For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? ⁹Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁰Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. ¹¹The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? ¹²For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

¹A good name is better than precious ointment,
and the day of death than the day of birth.

²It is better to go to the house of mourning
than to go to the house of feasting,
for this is the end of all mankind,
and the living will lay it to heart.

- ³Sorrow is better than laughter,
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.
- ⁴The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
- ⁵It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise
than to hear the song of fools.
- ⁶For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,
so is the laughter of the fools;
this also is vanity.
- ⁷Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,
and a bribe corrupts the heart.
- ⁸Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.
- ⁹Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,
for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.
- ¹⁰Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.
- ¹¹Wisdom is good with an inheritance,
an advantage to those who see the sun.
- ¹²For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,
and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.
- ¹³Consider the work of God:
who can make straight what he has made crooked?
- ¹⁴In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Scripture Study for the Day:

Questions to guide our study...

1. On what basis can the Teacher say that a stillborn child is better off than a prosperous person who cannot enjoy his or her blessings? (6:1-6)

- P** That with the glorious company of the apostles we may proclaim Your Gospel throughout the world, we pray to You, O Lord;
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That with the white-robed army of martyrs we may be ready to suffer for the truth's sake, we pray to You, O Lord;
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That with all who are anointed by Your Spirit we may bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed, we pray to You, O Lord;
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That with the saints in light we may aid the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and comfort all who mourn, we pray to You, O Lord;
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That within the whole company of Christ's pilgrim people we may come to the inheritance of the saints in glory, we pray to You, O Lord;
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** In communion with all the saints, let us commend the world, ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day:

- P** Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace:

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

The Closing Prayer:

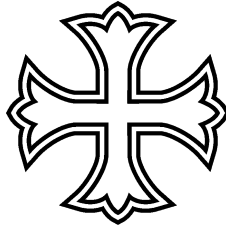
Eric Milner-White (1963), after John Donne (1631)

- P** We pray:
- C** **Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitations of Your glory and dominion,
world without end.
Amen.**

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** **Amen.**

If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net.



Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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