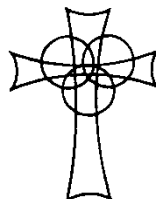


MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

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



The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org

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

Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Twenty-Second Week after Pentecost
November 4, 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** ¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
²sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!
- C** ³**Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.**
- P** ⁴All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name.”
- C** ⁵**Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.**
- P** ⁸Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
- C** ⁹**who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**
- P** ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
- C** ¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**
- P** ¹²you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.
- C** ¹³**I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will perform my vows to you,**
- P** ¹⁴that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
- C** ¹⁶**Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.**
- P** ¹⁷I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.
- C** ¹⁸**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.**
- P** ¹⁹But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- C** ²⁰**Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!**
- 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.**

¹ Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. ² Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. ³ For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. ⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. ⁶ Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? ⁷ For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. ⁹ But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

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. What does it mean to stand in awe of God? What does this mean for us and how we speak to God? How does this shape our relationship with and standing before God? (Verses 1-7)
2. How should we understand Solomon's words about rulers in verses 8-9?
3. Solomon writes in verses 10-17 about how he sees that wealth is meaningless and a source of difficulty for those who have it. Why?
4. In contrast to the frustration of the rich man, how does the working man spend his nights? (Verse 12)
5. What is the best a person can do in life? How alone can a person achieve such a life? (Verses 18-19)
6. Describe the life of a person blessed by God? (Verse 20)

The Prayers:

P Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us make our prayer in the power of the Spirit, looking to Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

That with the noble fellowship of the prophets we may discern the signs of Your kingdom in our midst, we pray to You, O Lord;

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.
Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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:

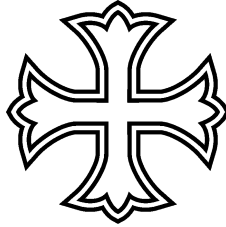
Eric Milner-White (1963), after John Donne (1631)

- 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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