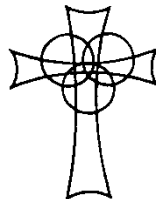


MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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 Nineteenth Week after Pentecost
October 14, 2020



Service of the Word in Ordinary Time

✠ In the Name of Jesus! ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1 and 25:3

- 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** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;
C teach me Your paths.
- 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, God of my salvation;
I cry out day and night before you.
- C** ²**Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!**
- P** ³For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
- C** ⁴**I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,**
- P** ⁵like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
- C** **like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.**
- P** ⁶You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
- C** ⁷**Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.**
- P** ⁸You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a horror to them.
- C** **I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow.**
- P** Every day I call upon you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
- C** ¹⁰**Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you?**
- P** ¹³But I, O LORD, cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 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.**

¹²So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. ¹³Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. ¹⁴The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. ¹⁵Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart

that this also is vanity. ¹⁶For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! ¹⁷So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

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 are some proofs of the truism that Solomon presents in verse 13: “there is more gain in wisdom than in folly”?
2. While wisdom is better than folly, what can wisdom not do? (verses 14-16)
3. What else about life reinforced for Solomon that life was meaningless? (verses 18-21)

4. By nature we labor hard, endure the pains and cares of work, and endure sleepless nights worrying about things that have no lasting meaning. What does Solomon conclude about all of this?

5. If in the end, by Solomon's understanding, everything in life is meaningless, what is the best thing that can happen to us in this life?

6. What then is the secret to wisdom, knowledge, and happiness?

The Prayers:

P Let us pray to God the Father, who has reconciled all things to Himself in Christ:

Let us pray for peace among the nations, that God may rid the world of violence and let peoples grow in justice and harmony;

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray for those who serve in public office among us, that they may work for the common good:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray for Christian people everywhere, that we may joyfully proclaim and live our faith in Jesus Christ:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray for those who suffer from hunger, sickness, or loneliness, that the presence of Christ may bring them health and wholeness:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us rejoice in the lives of all of God's saints, and let us pray that in the undying love of Christ we may be at last united with all who have died in the faith of Christ in the joys of God's eternal kingdom:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

- P** Let us commend 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.
Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.**

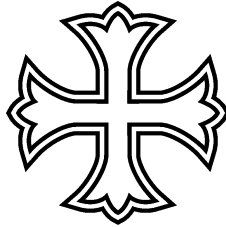
The Closing Prayer:

from the *Sarum Primer* (1527)

- P** We pray:
C **God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and in my departing.
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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