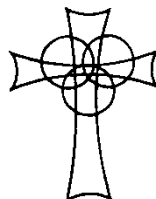


# MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

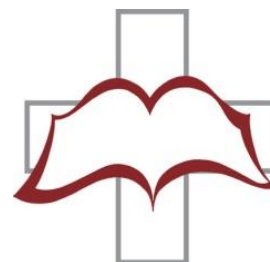
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*A Member Congregation of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study**  
**Wednesday in the Nineteenth Week after Pentecost**  
**October 21, 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** <sup>9</sup>Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him have no lack!
- C** <sup>10</sup>**The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**
- P** <sup>11</sup>Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**What man is there who desires life  
and loves many days, that he may see good?**
- P** <sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- C** <sup>14</sup>**Turn away from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.**
- P** <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.
- C** <sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.**
- P** <sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- C** <sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.**
- P** <sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- C** <sup>20</sup>**He keeps all his bones;  
not one of them is broken.**
- P** <sup>21</sup>Affliction will slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- C** <sup>22</sup>**The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**
- 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.**

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
<sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
<sup>5</sup>a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
<sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
<sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
<sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What gain has the worker from his toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

<sup>14</sup>I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. <sup>15</sup>That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

<sup>16</sup>Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. <sup>17</sup>I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. <sup>18</sup>I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. <sup>19</sup>For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup>All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. <sup>21</sup>Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? <sup>22</sup>So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what 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. In verses 1-9, what point is Solomon driving home in this listing he gives of these “moments in life”? Do they also show the theme of the meaninglessness of life?
2. We rightly focus on how the bad times follow the good and negate our toils. But the opposite is also true—good times follow the bad. What comfort can we draw from this?
3. What is the burden that Solomon speaks of as the “business” God has given to man? Though there is a burden, what is still good for human beings to do? (verses 10-13)
4. The sense of eternity, the knowledge of a Creator, and our inability to change the cycles of life join together for one purpose. What is that purpose? (verses 14-15)
5. What is another meaningless activity described in verses 16-17?
6. What does God want people to see about their condition as they ponder their common fate with the animals? (verses 18-22)

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.  
O God, the Protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our Ruler and Guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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.**

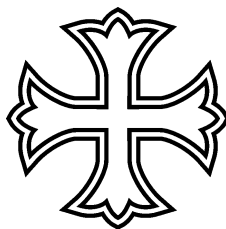
The Closing Prayer:

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](mailto: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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