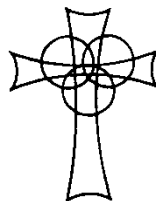


MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

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

Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
The Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
October 28, 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** ¹I said, “I will guard my ways,
that I may not sin with my tongue;
- C** **I will guard my mouth with a muzzle,
so long as the wicked are in my presence.”**
- P** ²I was mute and silent;
I held my peace to no avail,
- C** **and my distress grew worse.
³My heart became hot within me.**
- P** As I mused, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:
- C** **⁴“O LORD, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!**
- P** ⁵Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
- C** **Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!
⁶Surely a man goes about as a shadow!**
- P** Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!
- C** **⁷“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.**
- P** ⁸Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!
- C** **⁹I am mute; I do not open my mouth,
for it is you who have done it.**
- P** ¹⁰Remove your stroke from me;
I am spent by the hostility of your hand.
- C** **¹¹When you discipline a man
with rebukes for sin,
you consume like a moth what is dear to him;
surely all mankind is a mere breath!**
- C** **¹²“Hear my prayer, O LORD,
and give ear to my cry;
hold not your peace at my tears!**
- P** For I am a sojourner with you,
a guest, like all my fathers.
- C** **¹³Look away from me, that I may smile again,
before I depart and am no more!”**
- 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.**

¹Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. ²And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

⁴Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

⁵The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

⁶Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

⁷Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

¹³Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. ¹⁴For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. ¹⁵I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. ¹⁶There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely 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 according to Solomon makes life meaningless in verse 1?

2. Because of this meaninglessness, who does Solomon conclude as being the happiest person?

3. What other things does Solomon say that contribute to the meaninglessness of life?
 - Verse 4: labor fueled by envy

 - Verses 5-6: anxiety over wealth

 - Verses 7-8: working hard but not having anyone to give it to

 - Verses 13-16: being caught up in the cycle of fickle subjects

4. What wisdom does Solomon give about companionship? What in this section contributes to the burden of life? (verses 9-12)

5. Why do some people refuse to be content with less and insist on being discontent chasing more? (Verse 6)

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 chose Your servants Simon and Jude to be numbered among the glorious company of the apostles. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and 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.**

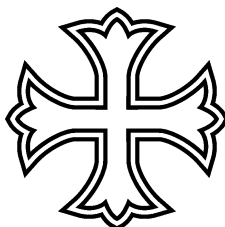
The Closing Prayer:

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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