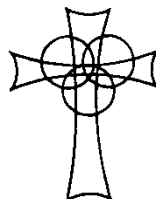




# MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

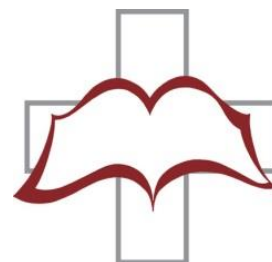
*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
30<sup>th</sup> Street and Bunker Hill Road  
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712*



*The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor*  
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340  
Church Web Site: [www.tlcmr.org](http://www.tlcmr.org)

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

**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study**  
**Wednesday in the Sixteenth Week after Pentecost**  
**September 23, 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>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- P** <sup>3</sup>You return man to dust  
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- C** <sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.**
- P** <sup>5</sup>You sweep them away as with a flood;  
they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- C** <sup>6</sup>**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**
- P** <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**
- P** <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- C** <sup>14</sup>**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- 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>The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
- <sup>3</sup>What does man gain by all the toil  
at which he toils under the sun?
- <sup>4</sup>A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup>The sun rises, and the sun goes down,  
and hastens to the place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup>The wind blows to the south  
and goes around to the north;  
around and around goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup>All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they flow again.

<sup>8</sup>All things are full of weariness;  
a man cannot utter it;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>9</sup>What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup>Is there a thing of which it is said,  
“See, this is new”?

It has been already  
in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup>There is no remembrance of former things,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of later things yet to be  
among those who come after.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Scripture Study for the Day:

I. Introduction to the Book of Ecclesiastes

A. Title and Author

B. The Book’s place in the Old Testament and Jewish Tradition

II. Study of the Day’s Scripture Portion: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. What is the meaning of “vanity” in the context of this passage? What is Solomon desiring us to understand in this word about life?

2. Solomon declares in verse 3: “What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?” In the light of his statement in verse 2 that “All is vanity”, what meaning do we or are we able to find in our life and living?
  
3. In verses 4-11, Solomon makes certain observations about our life lived “under the sun”. What do we recognize about our earthly life and living in these words?
  - Verses 4-7
  
  - Verse 8
  
  - Verses 9-10
  
  - Verse 11
  
4. William Shakespeare wrote in his play, *Macbeth*: “Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player (actor) that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” How do these words compare with those of Solomon?
  
5. Solomon’s words seem to give us a rather dismal perspective on life, especially for those in our own day who would like to live with some degree of “happy optimism”. Even though Solomon’s view on living can be seen as depressing, are his observations any less true? Where or how are we able to find hope in this reality that Solomon presents to us?

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.  
Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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.**

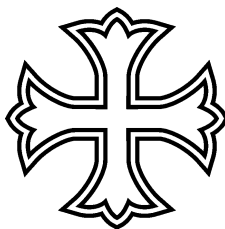
The Closing Prayer:

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.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV<sup>®</sup> Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created with Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.