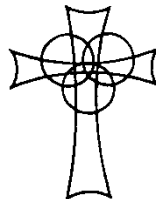


MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS & STUDY

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
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 Seventeenth Week after Pentecost
September 30, 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** ¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- C** ²**Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.**
- P** ³There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
- C** ⁴**Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**
- P** In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- C** ⁵**which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**
- P** ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- C** ⁷**The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;**
- P** ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
- C** ⁹**the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.**
- P** ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- C** ¹¹**Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.**
- P** ¹²Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- C** ¹³**Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

- P** ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
- 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.**

The Scripture Reading for the Day

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁵What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."
¹⁷And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

¹⁸For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

- 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 was Solomon's goal? What qualified him to do this work? (verses 13 & 16)
2. Why is seeking answers to life an "unhappy business"? (verses 13 & 15)
3. What was Solomon's ultimate quest? (verse 17)

4. What conclusion does Solomon reach about the pursuit of human wisdom and knowledge as the basis for a satisfying life?

5. What are we to make of Solomon's "proverb" in verse 18? Why is wisdom and knowledge a "burden"?

6. From a purely human perspective, can we truly understand life?

7. To understand life fully, where must we turn?

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 exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.**

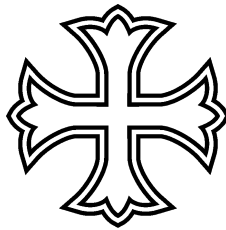
The Closing Prayer:

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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