

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17B) August 29, 2021

INTROIT

Psalm 51:7, 10-12; Antiphon: Psalm 51:2

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

**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.**

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *O God, the source of all that is just and good,
nourish in us every virtue
and bring to completion every good intent
that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works,
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen**

GRADUAL

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt

*Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P ... *Lord, in Your mercy*

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayer concludes:

P*through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 (ESV)

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹ “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly

places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Mark 7:14-23 (ESV)

¹⁴ [Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles

him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 17B)

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

Ephesians 6:10–20

Mark 7:14–23

We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God

Wickedness and evil come “*from within, out of the heart,*” and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21–23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But, as the Lord Jesus “*declared all foods clean*” (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, by the preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sins. Therefore, “*listen to the statutes and the rules*” of the Lord, “*and do them, that you may live*” (Deut. 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is “*your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples*” (Deut. 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it “*to your children and your children’s children*” (Deut. 4:9). Put on this “*armor of God*” by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may “*stand firm*” in the evil day (Eph. 6:11–13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the “*gospel of peace,*” and take up “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*” by confessing Christ Jesus and “*praying at all times in the Spirit*” (Eph. 6:14–18).

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

September 5 (Proper 18B): Pentecost 15:

Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10, 14-18, Mark 7:(24-30) 31-37