

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).

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17 A)
August 30, 2020

INTROIT

Psalm 37:5-7; Antiphon: Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

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.

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty God,*
Your Son willingly endured the agony
and shame of the cross for our redemption.
Grant us courage to take up our cross daily
and follow Him wherever He leads;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

GRADUAL

Psalm 34:9, 19

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!

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

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

Jeremiah 15:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my
persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not
away;
know that for your sake I bear
reproach.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate
them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of
revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was
upon me,
for you had filled me with
indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Will you be to me like a deceitful
brook,
like waters that fail?

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not
what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of
the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the
ruthless.”

Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what
is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰
Love one another with brotherly
affection. Outdo one another in
showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful
in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the
Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³
Contribute to the needs of the saints
and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in
harmony with one another. Do not be
haughty, but associate with the lowly.
Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷
Repay no one evil for evil, but give
thought to do what is honorable in the
sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it
depends on you, live peaceably with
all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge
yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of
God, for it is written, “Vengeance is
mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰
To the contrary, “if your enemy is
hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give
him something to drink; for by so
doing you will heap burning coals on
his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by
evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28 (ESV)

²¹ From that time Jesus began to
show his disciples that he must go to
Jerusalem and suffer many things
from the elders and chief priests and
scribes, and be killed, and on the third
day be raised. ²² And Peter took him

aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 17 (August 28—September 3)

Jeremiah 15:15–21

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28

The Glory of God is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus.

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the Cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and Cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ Cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His Cross Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His Resurrection He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His Cross and Resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

September 6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7 (v.1); Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20