

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).

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19B)

September 12, 2021

INTROIT

Psalm 31:14-16; Antiphon: Psalm 31:24

*Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!*

But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

Make your face shine on your servant;

save me in your steadfast love!

**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.

*Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need,
continue to preserve Your Church in safety,
govern her by Your goodness,
and bless her with Your peace;
for You live and reign with the Father 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 *....one God forever.* **C** **Amen.**

Isaiah 50:4-10 (ESV)

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant?

Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

James 3:1-12 (ESV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the

mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Mark 9:14-29 (ESV)

¹⁴And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I

brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” ¹⁹ And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and

help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can!’ All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 19

Isaiah 50:4–10

James 3:1–12

Mark 9:14–29

Christ Jesus Delivers Us from Sin, Death and the Devil

Those who teach the Word of God “*will be judged with greater strictness*” (James 3:1), because it is by the Word that saving faith is obtained; whereas false doctrine always threatens to destroy Christian faith and life. The tongue “*boasts of great things,*” whether for good or evil (James 3:5). In fallen man, “*it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison*” (James 3:8). But anyone who bridles his tongue with the Word of God, who “*does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man*” (James 3:2). It is Christ who opens His ear to the voice of His Father, so that, with “*the tongue of those who are taught,*” He is able to sustain the weary “*with a word*” (Is. 50:4–5). Entrusting Himself to His Father, even to death, He is not put to shame but is vindicated in His Resurrection (Is. 50:6–9). By His faith and faithfulness, He casts out the “*mute and deaf spirit*” from us (Mark 9:25). He has compassion on us and helps us, so that we are not destroyed but cleansed from every evil and raised up from death to life (Mark 9:22–27).

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

September 19 (Proper 20B) Pentecost 17

Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54 (antiphon v. 4), James 3:13-4:10, Mark 9:30-37