



RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Basehor, Kansas - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Daily Devotions for the Home **Trinity 19 - End of the Church Year** **(October 26th - November 29th)** **The Year of Our Lord 2025**



THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS.

**THIS DEVOTIONAL IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD, WHO
HEARS THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE AND DELIGHTS IN THEM.**

THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS MARKED BY PRAYER. ALONGSIDE ALMSGIVING AND FASTING IT IS ONE OF THE THREE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES COMMENDED TO US BY OUR LORD IN MATTHEW 6. PRAYER IS NOT A ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION. AS WE PRAY, WE SEE OUR LORD'S RESPONSE TO US IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. IT IS INDEED FITTING THEN THAT AS WE PRAY, WE WOULD ALSO HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD, MEDITATE UPON IT AND BE SHAPED BY IT. IT IS THE WORD OF GOD THAT SUSTAINS US IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATION, IT IS THE WORD OF GOD THAT IMPARTS LIFE IN THE MIDST OF DEATH, LIGHT IN DARKNESS, AND JOY IN SORROW. LET US CLING TO IT FERVENTLY, STUDY, READ, MARK, AND LEARN IT. IN SHORT LET US NOT DESPISE THE WORD OF GOD BUT GLADLY HEAR AND LEARN IT.

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL FIND SAMPLE DAILY PRAYERS ALONGSIDE A BRIEF DEVOTION AND SCRIPTURE READING FOR EACH DAY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PRACTICE OF DAILY PRAYER BECOMES A HABIT IN YOUR LIFE, IN YOUR FAMILY, AND THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION.

PAX DOMINI,
PASTOR BURGDORF

MORNING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice,

in the morning, I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Psalms 5

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Psalms 71

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalms 51

**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.**

HYMN OR PSALM

SCRIPTURE READING

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;**

**I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.**

For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.

**Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have
no power over me. Amen.**

Small Catechism Morning Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 103

Noon

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea.

Hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

Psalm 55

**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.**

HYMN OR PSALM

SCRIPTURE READING

MEDITATION

KYRIE

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

have mercy upon us.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

Mark 10

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out
Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the
earth may look o You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us
according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all
error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

EVENING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

To sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning.

Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN OR PSALM

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day;

and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night.

For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.

Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Small Catechism Evening Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

OCTOBER 26TH

For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic "Rise, pick up your bed and go home."

Matthew 9:5-7

Notice how the healing of the paralytic resembles the healing of Baptism. He is carried on his bed by others, unable to bring himself to the house where Christ is but depending upon others to bring him, just as an infant cannot bring himself into the house of God but relies upon his parents and family to bring him.

But not only that; Christ forgives the man his sins first and then comes life and health. In the same way in Holy Baptism Christ forgives you your sins, calls you His own child and you rise out of the font to follow Christ. For where there is forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation also. All who are baptized may take comfort and confidence in this truth. You do not simply receive forgiveness of sins but the promise and guarantee of eternal life. Complete restoration and soundness of health and life in the resurrection of the just.

For on that day you will rise from your sleep of death and go into your own house. The words Christ says "In My Father's house are many mansions." So it is true that in the waters of Holy Baptism you are granted the everlasting promise of eternal life and a home with Christ forever. At Christ's word rise, pick up your mat and follow Him.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 19

OCTOBER 27TH

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life
1 John 1:1*

What is “that which was from the beginning”? Nothing other than the word, the apostle says they heard that which was from the beginning. And it is the word, in the beginning of his gospel, that is with God at the beginning.

In that same gospel he says the Word became flesh, it is no surprise then that he says here the Word is what they have also touched with their hands! The Word of God became flesh so that we might receive and behold Him in the flesh. This is the Holy Gospel that the Lord spoke in the beginning, that His Word which proceeds from Him, which is also the eternal God, has joined Himself to us.

What was it that Christ, the Incarnate Word says in the beginning? “Let there be light”. Christ says of Himself, “I am the light of the world”. It is declared again here in the apostles letter “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”.

This light is Christ, the one who enlightens the darkened mind and heart with His mercy. Let us walk in the light, that means, let us walk in Christ, cling to Him and follow Him.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 19

OCTOBER 28TH

***And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him
1 John 2:3-4***

To "know that we have come know Him" is a statement of confidence. It is to say that we have assurance we are not pretenders, we are not faking it. It distinguishes the Christian from the many who pretend claiming to know Christ but not keeping His commandments.

All of His commandments are fulfilled by love. The one who pretends, who does not know Christ, does not have any love. For God is love: the Father loves the Son, and the Son loves the Father. The Spirit is the love shared between the two. The shining of the true light is the proclamation of this Christ who demonstrated His love to His Father by obedience unto death, for the sake of being our scapegoat, to pay for our sin, and to take our place, not only for us but for the whole world.

See how Christ loves the Father! This love is stronger than death, and by the brightness of its shining. that is the preaching and the Sacraments, the darkness of hearts is dispersed and men are enlightened.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 19

OCTOBER 29TH

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
1 John 5:1-3

We need to know that we love not only God Himself, but also the children of God, because as we said yesterday there are many pretenders, who say they do but in reality hate them. There are those who like Cain, who bring God offerings but then kill their brothers out of envy.

But what about us? Are we genuine? Would we ourselves, who are so corrupt with sin, who share in a sinful nature with Cain loved Abel any more than him?

To us the apostle writes, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments".

But His commandment is that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another. This is fulfilled in you by Holy Baptism in the name of this Jesus who is the Christ and in the Holy Supper where His love is poured out for you. In Baptism you are embraced by the Love of Christ and it dwells in you.

To love God and His children is simply to partake in the Sacrament, where we with all the children of God join Abel, and all the faithful being made one with Christ Himself.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 19

OCTOBER 30TH

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 John 5:16-17

What is the difference between sin that leads to death and sin not leading to death? The answer is rather simple and it has to do only with whether or not one has the Son of God.

The apostle also writes that “whoever has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”. We can conclude that the one who does not have the Son has no life, but rather has “sin which leads to death”.

But the one who has the Son, though he still sins, he also has life; for Christ Himself says “I am the life”. The one who has Christ is born of God, born into a life that cannot die or be destroyed, born into a life that died and yet lives.

This life is received in the font of Holy Baptism, where we enter into the grave alongside Christ, die to our sin and are made alive in Christ, declared by God to be His Son and given the eternal life of Christ.

Do not ask whether your sin leads to death or life, for all sin is worthy of condemnation. But find comfort in that you have been given Christ, you have been given a life that has conquered sin. Our hope is not in ourselves but in Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

OCTOBER 31ST

***So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John
8:36***

This is not freedom to do as we please, for the one who practices sin is a slave to sin. To do as we please is therefore the opposite of the freedom for which Christ frees us.

For if we do as we please we will follow the desires and impulses of our heart and mind, we will give in to temptation after temptation. Nothing is off limits as long as it makes me happy. We know that which comes from our hearts and our minds, is sinful, we do not turn towards the things of God but towards the things of the flesh.

The freedom Christ gives however is the freedom to say no to our passions, that is our desires, to our sinful nature and to our own flesh. It is a freedom contrary to the worlds.

If you listen to our culture you will be told we are free to do whatever we please, to live how we want, to do what you want, no one can tell you what to do.

Christ has set you free for freedom. Freedom from your own desires. Because you are not a slave, but you are free indeed.

You are free to leave that dog we call the old Adam alone, to leave him chained and muzzled, and to live the life God has called you to.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 1ST

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:9-10

"A great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages," cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9–17). Faith-filled saints from every place and time, with unified voices, eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:1–3).

Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:9–17). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. T

he Holy Spirit through faith in Christ propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home.

In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 2ND

"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

Matthew 22:11-12

Look carefully how you walk dear Christian! Do not reject the wedding garment offered, it was bought with the blood of God poured out for you, and do not make light of the Lord's laws, they are for your benefit. To guide and keep you on the narrow path of salvation.

For God is a mighty and jealous God who deserves your attention, but he is also gracious and merciful. He has called you in, the good and the bad and furnished you with righteousness and salvation. He has given you everything you need, furnished you with a robe of righteousness.

Let us give thanks and listen to him. Let us look carefully then how we are to walk, making the best use of the time we have.

Let us submit to Christ and be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns, filling our days with the word of the Lord, studying and confessing what he has done, and let us give thanks always and for everything to God the Father, lest we cast aside the glorious robe won for us by Christ.

For the one who has the baptismal garment is not speechless before the Lord but stands confidently covered in the blood of Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 3RD

*For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.
2 John 7-8*

The Apostle gives a warning for all to take to heart. No only are we to beware of deceivers, but that there are many out in the world. That is to say beware not only that they may be found but that they indeed will be found.

And who are these deceivers? They are those who do not confess the Lord Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. They may confess that they know Him, or even preach Him, but not as one who has come and is coming in the flesh. There are many who say Christ is God, but deny God was born of Mary or that God was crucified and died.

But there is no other God than the God who became flesh, who as a fetus developed in His mother's womb, who lay His head to rest in a manger, and lay to rest in the tomb after His crucifixion.

But even now in our day, there are those who reject Christ as coming in the flesh in the Holy Supper. Who claim God could not be present or would not be present physically in the Holy Sacrament as He has promised to be. They seek to separate the two natures of Christ, to rend God and man apart in the person of Christ. Let it not be so among us. Let us confess wholeheartedly the truth of Christ coming in the flesh to feed us bodily as we gather around His altar at His command.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 4TH

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Mark 4:37-38

Do you not care that we are perishing? Does this phrase not ring in our thoughts constantly throughout our lives? How can Christ sleep amidst the storms of our lives?

We are not alone, David asks a similar question in the psalms, "How long will you forget me, O Lord?" And he answers his own question by saying, "But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice".

Likewise, the disciples wonder as Christ lies fast asleep in the boat. But they do not answer like David, and so Christ rebukes them: "How is it that you have no faith".

For although faith must experience the tempests of life, and be troubled by them, we dare not forget the power that Christ has to command obedience even of the wind and the wave.

For the Christian life itself is lived in the sea, that is from the font of baptism it is one of constant drowning, through much affliction we learn also the joy of the resurrection and life in the word of Christ. As He says to us what He says to the wind and the waves, "Peace, be still".

He says it to you in the Divine Service as His body is lifted and the chalice elevated. "The peace of the Lord be with you always".

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 5TH

***He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like?
And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of
mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden,
and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air
made nests in its branches."
Luke 13:18-19***

Consider the mustard seed, how small yet once buried in the ground grows into a mighty tree. But for it to grow it must first be buried. The seed unburied is nothing, but the seed buried in the ground brings forth life.

In the same way God gave His Son into death and burial: how very small the almighty God was in His humiliation, yet God willed it. He knew what would come from it.

As the mustard seed grows and becomes a large tree, so Christ arose from the grave, and drew all men to Himself by sending forth His preachers with the tidings of good news, that Christ was sown in the ground and has been raised up.

And just as the birds nested in the branches of the mustard tree so the Gentiles nest in the outstretched arms of Christ and upon the Holy Cross. From this tree they are nourished and feed, being cared for by the fruit of the cross poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 6TH

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

Behold the treasure hidden in a field: who find it? A man, who upon finding it hides it again. It is none other than Christ Himself, who is hidden in the world, for on more than one occasion we hear that Christ hides Himself and in His death, crucifixion and burial was hidden from the world.

But who buried Him? Was it not God Himself? The one who willed that Christ should suffer and die? And what happened next? The man bought the field for the value of its hidden treasure.

In the same way God gained the whole world for the value of Christ who was buried therein. Your salvation was not cheap, it was costly to our Lord and to our God.

All that He had, was in Christ who was crucified. Yet the return was the redemption of the world.

Consider the merchant and the pearl: here now is Christ Himself, who comes to find His church, which to Him is worth all that He had and is. For His bride He is willing to suffer all things, to give all He has and hold nothing back, simply so that He might purchase her back and she might be His forever.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 7TH

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:13-16*

Who do you say that Jesus is? This question has been posed to Christians throughout the world. Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." This fulfilled the word of the prophet Hosea, "In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'"

For Isreal was called out of Egypt, as Hosea also says "Out of Egypt I have called My Son." But now we see Jesus, who was likewise called from Egypt during His infancy, led into the wilderness, where He contended with the devil, and was tested by God.

But He, unlike Isreal, passed the test. He fulfilled all that Israel was meant to be, and therefore is the True Israel, the obedient Son.

This is what Peter recognizes, so Jesus calls him blessed, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to him, but Jesus' Father who is in heaven. And as the first to make this bold confession, Peter becomes the rock on which the Church of Christ is built.

For with the heart one believes, and with the mouth one confesses; and since this confessional faith is worked by God alone the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 20

NOVEMBER 8TH

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

What is our earthly home? It is nothing other than our earthly bodies, our flesh. As Christ called His own body the true temple, so let us see our bodies as tents. For these bodies will be destroyed by death for we are mortal.

So let us enter the true temple of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. This temple is the body of Christ, into which we gain entrance by faith.

Our bodies, our tents, are passing away; thus we grieve, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our home from heaven. And this clothing is the robe of Christ, that does not fade or wither. And this robe is given to you now. For in Holy Baptism Christ our Lord gives to us the heavenly garment, unsullied with sin and death, unmarred by our sinful nature as a free gift.

If you have been baptized you have no need to wonder where you will be for eternity. You can be sure you have received the Spirit of God even if our baptismal garment is unseen to our mortal eyes.

We walk by faith and not by sight.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

NOVEMBER 9TH

The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

John 4:49-50

The nobleman implores Jesus to come and heal his son. And in this we see that he had faith that Jesus had the authority to do it but also required Jesus to be present in order for Him to exercise His power.

How very unlike the centurion who, when Jesus offers to come to his house, declares with confidence he is not fit for the Lord to come under his roof, that simply the Word of Christ alone would be enough.

So this nobleman in our reading is weak in faith; as he confessed, "Come down before my child dies"; it is as if he said "My faith is weak, Help my unbelief!" And what does Christ do? HE simply speaks the word of His power: "Go; your son will live". He invites the official to trust His Word. He elevates the man's faith by bringing Him up and giving Him faith liken to the centurion.

How do we know this? Because Christ says "the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way". So does the word of Christ, even today, produce great faith, even among us.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 10TH

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

Ephesians 1:7-9

No only does Christ work our redemption through His blood, but he also predestined us to adoption as sons. He does not provide simply the bare minimum but provides to us a cup overflowing with his goodness and mercy.

For Christ is not merely the propitiation for our sins, as if that was not enough, He also grants us the faith to believe it! And this because He has predetermined that we would believe it!

Why does he do all of this? What causes our Lord and God to go to such great lengths as this? Nothing other than love. Love that was before the foundation of the world. You have no need to fear the future for your future is found in the love of Christ which was given and set aside for you from before the ages.

Having heard His word, and received it in the Holy Sacraments you have been gathered into Him and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 11TH

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

Ephesians 2:1-2

It is clear that the new creation is completely the work of God as was the first creation. No help or will of man can accomplish this for we are as the apostle says "dead in the trespasses and sins".

In the beginning God created Adam out of dust. And now, again in Christ, He made you alive; you who were dead in sin and following the course of this world which leads to eternal death.

Like us, Christ was also dead in the trespasses and sins, but not His own, dead in the sins of the world, so that when He was raised from the dead His resurrection might not be His alone but also the rebirth of all creation.

For those who are in Christ, baptized in His holy name, they are joined also to His work: as He was raised from the dead, so also He raised us up together with Him just as He ascended to the right hand of Power. It is not God alone who was ascended but man. In the person of Christ all of mankind is elevated and brought up for man now sits on the throne of God.

In Christ we have died, raised, and ascended to the divine throne. This is grace. This is the working of God, and not of man. Let us not boast.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 12TH

***I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 3:1-3***

Yesterday we spoke of God's work in our salvation, lest we become prideful and boast in ourselves. See how the apostle does not say that there is now nothing for us to do.

Salvation offered free to us does not mean that the Christian life is not one of service, humility and gentleness. No quite the opposite, because of the great glory given to us in Christ's redeeming work we all the more must live in accordance with what has been given. Let us not reject Christ by our apathy, let us not in sloth turn from the ways of God.

Let us rejoice that Christ has indeed called us to such glorious things as "love and humility", for these are characteristic of God. Christ invites us by His word to commune with Him in His Holy Supper and to participate in the divine life. A life lived in love living according to the law out of joy not out of compulsion.

For Christ has set us free from the bondage of the law but the fulfilling of the law is love. And love never passes away. As those brought into Christ, redeemed by Him let us be enjoined and molded by Him. In short, let us love.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 13TH

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:29-30

What is corrupting talk? Is it not a word contrary to Christ? Is it not to speak falsely for Christ Himself is "they way, the truth, and the life". Corrupt speak is more than lies only but all false teaching, coming from the devil who is the father of lies.

Such words are not fitting for those who belong to Christ. Instead fill your mouth with what is good for building up so that grace might be imparted to those who hear.

The words "good for building up", sometimes translated "good for necessary edification" imply there is a particular place and time. Where does this most necessary edification happen? In the Divine Service. The hearers are those present during the Divine Service and the words that are to come out of your mouth are nothing but the Divine Liturgy, the sung word of God.

This liturgy is to be sung by all the faithful lest we grieve the Holy Spirit, for He is indeed grieved when the liturgy is neglected or spurned. But when it is used in faith it is a delight to the Spirit and He rejoices to hear you fill your mind, ears, and mouth with proper speech.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 14TH

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.
Ephesians 5:8-10

In the beginning, God Said, "Let there be light". God saw the light, that it was good. But He did not call the darkness, which He divided from the light good. Let us also learn to divide light from darkness , that is, to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but expose them.

How are they exposed? By coming into contact with the light; which is nothing other than the Gospel of Christ, for in Him was life and the life was the light of men.

So the Gospel exposes the darkness: it shows us Christ, how He suffered for the sin of the world, being betrayed into the hands of the wicked, and , the evangelist says "there was darkness over all the land" as Christ was slain. But the darkness did not prevail.

Christ arose from death, and angels announced His resurrection with the rising of the sun on Easter morning.

So let us turn from all evil and its attendant darkness and cling to our risen Christ; for by Baptism we are joined to His death and resurrection. By Baptism the darkness of sin is driven away by the light of Christ who dwells among us.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 15TH

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:32-33

How is marriage a profound mystery? It is because marriage is not ultimately about man and woman. The true marriage is between Christ and the Church. The husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church. For this reason the apostle writes women are to be subject to their husbands, because they do not stand for themselves but are a picture of the Holy Blessed Church.

Every earthly marriage no matter how wonderful they are, is but a dim image of the beauty of marriage. For as He loved the church and gave Himself for her, in order to sanctify and cleanse her by Holy Baptism, so also husbands are called to love their wives, for the Church is the body of Christ.

Just as Christ gives His name to the Church in Holy Baptism, so the husband gives his name to his bride in marriage. Or again, as the church honors Christ, so ought wives to honor their husbands.

As Adam rejoiced over Eve saying "this is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" so may the church and bride of the Second Adam rejoice in return saying, "we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of his bones; especially as we receive His body in the Holy Sacrament".

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 16TH

***So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
Matthew 18:35***

Do not fall into the trap as the servant in our parable did. Do not exaggerate the sins of others against yourself, while minimizing the sins you have committed against God. It is easy to amplify and overstress the inconveniences and minor difficulties that we have suffered, but these are nothing compared to the sins we have committed against our Father in Heaven.

For you and I deserve hell, we deserve to be cast into jail until we have paid the last penny. God would be in his legal right to do so to us. But has chosen mercy and grace. He has chosen to forgive.

So you, might see his mercy, might imitate him, and forgive those who persecute you, just as Christ did, saying “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” as they nailed and hung him to a tree.

Let this parable be a warning to us, and a comfort. A warning against our own inclination to withhold from others that which is freely bestowed upon us. And a comfort that even though we cannot afford it, even though it came with a great price, forgiveness has been won and offered to you, the servant who owed far more than he could ever repay.

✠ In Jesus’ name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 17TH

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17

Here Jesus instructs His disciples in order that they may know how to minister to His people. We see how in the Office of the Holy Ministry it is necessary to rebuke the erring when He says "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him".

But there is also a necessity of due process of law, in the event that he will not listen. For when someone refuses to correct his error, there is a need for removal. For Christ our Lord says "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off".

Removal from the body is a serious thing. It must be carried out with great care, lest more harm than good be done. It is fitting then that there are witnesses and even a hearing of the whole church.

So we see two truths at play here. First, it is better for you to enter into life less a member than the whole body be cast into the everlasting fire. And secondly, if we cause one of the little ones to sin it would be better for us if a millstone were hung around our neck. Let us care for the whole body of Christ so that we might enter inter eternity together.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 21

NOVEMBER 18TH

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Mark 9:33-37

The disciples are silent when Jesus questions them. They are ashamed, as was the man at the wedding feast in Jesus' parable who did not have a wedding garment.

But silence is not fitting when it is time for the confession of sins, as David says "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old". O foolish disciples, be not silent, but confess!

To confess is to admit unworthiness to be greatest among you. This is the truth revealed in Christ's words: "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all". For the first shall be last.

No one among the disciples is worthy to be first; therefore he who strives to be first shall be a fool, being more ignorant of his true state before God. So, Jesus takes a little child and sets him in the middle so that they might become as newly born children, returning to a childlike faith to the font of Holy Baptism from which they were born anew.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 19TH

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."
Luke 17:20-21

The kingdom of God does not come in ways that can be observed. It is a kingdom of faith in what is unseen. Where is the kingdom then? The kingdom of God is where Christ is, and Christ dwells within you. That is, through Baptism you have become a new creation in this new kingdom.

Do not look here or look there, as the false prophets will bid you do; rather, live by faith in what is hidden, revealed only by the Gospel.

For faith is the substance of things not seen, as the Apostle also declares. But at the Last Day we shall see all things by the light of Christ and His return.

So let us tremble even now, and honor the holy name as we await our redemption. Remember Lot's wife who looked back and did not live by faith and was condemned to be a pillar of salt. For the greater separation of the good from the evil is coming at the Harvest, the Day of the Lord.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 20TH

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

Here again we see that hope and sight are not found together. But our hope is found in Christ, whose glory is yet to be revealed in us.

So it is that the Spirit also helps in our weakness. How so? By groanings too deep for words. We do not pray for what we ought, nor do we even know what it is we should be praying for.

So we wait, in the confidence that as we wait, the Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. So good is He that He does not even leave the matter of intercession to us, but works it Himself. This is seen in the Divine Liturgy where "with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we magnify His glorious name, evermore praising you and saying."

This in this fallen life we wait by faith, knowing that all things work together for good to those who love God. In "all things" we should understand it to be "all creation." And if all creation joins the Spirit in groaning for our redemption, surely the faithful have no reason to be afraid.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 21ST

"A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.

Mark 12:1-2

A man planted a vineyard with a hedge, and leased it to vinedressers, who then were found to be wicked. These are the scribes and Pharisees, who do not bring forth good fruit from that vineyard.

This the psalmist' longing question is answered: "Why hast thou then broken down her hedges?" It was because there was no fruit. And this even though God sent servants to the vineyard, who were His prophets, where were persecuted and killed by the vinedressers.

And then at last He sent His Son. What then? They furiously raged together against the Lord and against His anointed. Why? Out of envy, as Pilate was also aware.

So they cast out; outside the walls of Jerusalem He was crucified. And then He will come and destroy the vinedressers and give the vineyard to others. So it is that in A.D. 70 Jerusalem was destroyed by the armies of Rome, as the Gospel waws going out into the world and Gentiles were being received into the new vineyard.

For the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 22

NOVEMBER 22ND

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Matthew 25:14-15

Here is a parable about investment. The servant with five talents made another five, the one with two made two, but the one with one buried and hid it.

So also the five books of Moses must be used to find Christ; in this way they are doubled in value; and again, the two testaments of the Scriptures must be used to find Christ; in this way they are doubled in value, as Jesus Himself declares, saying "Search the Scriptures; they testify of Me".

So what of the one talent? It is like our one Christ, who likewise was buried and hid in the tomb; but not only so: for He was raised from the dead. HE was vindicated against His enemies who crucified Him.

See then from this parable what shall happen to them, who crucified Him and sent Him to death. They shall be condemned as wicked and lazy, what they did have shall be taken from them and they shall be cast into the darkness.

Let us search the Scriptures to find Christ there, employing them for great gain, as the faithful servants did with their talents, while the wicked who do not seek Christ are cast out.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 23RD

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Matthew 25:14-15

As members of the Church, as those baptized into Christ, who have been bought by His blood spilled upon the cross, we are no longer merely citizens of an earthly kingdom, but our citizenship is in heaven.

This however does not remove our citizenship on earth as we might be tempted to believe. No, we live as dual citizens, both of this nation and of God's kingdom. We would do well to learn how these are related. The Church has shown admirable and practical wisdom in the selection of the holy Gospel.

It is tempting to get caught up in the words of the Pharisees and their attempt to trap Christ, but we should be so concerned with this, it is of no surprise, no; the interesting and worthwhile thing to ponder and focus on is Christ's answer.

It reminds us of the basic truth that we are both citizens of heaven and here on earth, and that these things are not against one another, but rather complimentary, two sides of the same coin really.

We are indeed to render to Caesar the things that are his, and to God the things that our God's.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 24TH

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?
1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Babies require milk, and older children solid food. What is the milk of which St. Paul speaks? It is nothing other than the word of God, as Peter also says: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word". Why do we desire it? What purpose does it serve but to cause us to grow.

As the Apostle treated the Corinthians as babes, that is as newly baptized neophytes that they were, feeding on the Gospel. Now he chides them, for they must be weaned from milk to solid food, as the psalmist declares, "My soul is even as a weaned child".

They need not only the Gospel, but solid food. What is this food you may ask? It is nothing other than the true food of which Christ says "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." It is a sacramental food.

It is the elements of Christ's suffering. The one who partakes also expresses a willingness to suffer for Christ. The word draws us into Christ Himself for He is the substantial food for which we pray "give us this day our daily bread". Man does not live by bread alone, but by the very word of God, so let us feast upon the bread, and be nourished by life itself.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 25TH

*And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."
Matthew 19:16-17*

Why did this man call Christ good? If he believes that he must do something to inherit eternal life, how can he call the benefactor good? For an inheritance is a gift, and not something earned.

If it is given only for the earning of it then the benefactor is not to be called good. Here is the crux of the story; God is good. It seems like a simple thing to say but it has profound impact upon us. IT is the mercy of God, that He is good and gives mercy freely; and in this goodness the Incarnate God is seen.

But He must show this man how futile is his quest, so He refers him to the commandments. Even though he claims to have kept the commandments, he is unable to follow the command and invitation of Christ. Because he does not believe Jesus is truly good, or able to provide for him treasures in heaven. So he goes away sorrowful clinging to the great possessions of this life.

But if the rich cannot enter the kingdom, if the moral cannot enter who can? With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. With God it is possible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, or even for all the fullness of God to dwell in Christ bodily.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 26TH

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
Luke 14:12-15

When you give a feast, invite the poor. Was not Christ Himself poor? The Apostle says that "though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." You are rich in Him; but shall you favor the rich? May it never be!

It was His poverty that has provided your riches. So he who is rich toward God does not need to entertain those who will repay him; that is, he does not need to trouble himself about the riches of this life, for they cannot repay the eternal riches bestowed.

With faith toward God, then, comes love and liberality toward the neighbor, which does not see in the neighbor a means of gain, since it has all been gained through mercy.

Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. For the divine riches are obtained at the eternal unending Feast of heaven.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 27TH

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Mark 13:24-27

Behold the signs that the end of the age is at hand: The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Here we recall the dream of Joseph, in which the sun and moon and stars, that is, his father, mother, and brothers, bowed down to him.

IN these are seen the whole people of Israel. But what happened to them? In A.D. 70 Jerusalem was utterly destroyed and left desolate and God withdrew from that nation.

See how the sun, moon and stars fell! And what else also happened? He sent out His angels to gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of the earth to the farthest part of heaven.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 28TH

***What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
Romans 9:14-16***

There is not unrighteousness with God. But there would be, if he were to have predestined some to eternal death without regard to their own fault.

Yet this is what some were evidently contending against the apostle, saying, "Why does He still find fault? Who has resisted His will?" But How does he respond? "O man, who are you to reply against God!"

See what fault there is with man. Even in the very inclination to reply in this manner to God there is fault! Is it unjust of Him to show mercy? Certainly not, for it is given freely.

But is it unjust to show wrath? Certainly not, for God endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction. Now it does not say, prepared beforehand for destruction.

Thus He only predestines for life, he doesn't not condemn without much longsuffering. Who is to blame for their condemnation? Certainly not God, who is rich both in mercy and truth.

It is the nature of man to call God unjust; but it is the nature of faith to recognize His goodness.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 23

NOVEMBER 29TH

***"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
Matthew 25:1-4***

If we wait until that last day to prepare. If we live each day and night, saying tomorrow I will believe, or tomorrow I will improve, tomorrow I will forgive.

Tomorrow may never come and we will find ourselves outside the banquet hall in the outer darkness begging Christ to open the doors to us, and we find ourselves hearing Him say "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you".

Our very souls, our very eternal life is at stake, we must repent now, we must hold to the faith that has been given to us now, we must hold fast to Christ and follow His commandments now. For tomorrow may not come, we cannot simply put our faith, but our eternal salvation at risk because we are not ready, or willing to repent.

By His death and His resurrection, and by the waters of baptism you have been made prepared by Christ. Do not trust in your own strength or in the strength of man, but look to Christ the author and perfecter of your faith. Trust your baptism. For the works of Christ have prepared you for the coming of our Lord, it is not a fearful thing but a joyful affair. Christ our King is returning to usher in the new heavens and the new earth to give to you his Christians life with him forever.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠