

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 23 through November 29

FAITH

Chapter 76. To Give Alms Aright, We Should Begin with Ourselves, and Have Pity Upon Our Own Souls.

For the man who wishes to give alms as he ought, should begin with himself, and give to himself first. For almsgiving is a work of mercy; and most truly is it said, *To have mercy on your soul is pleasing to God*. And for this end are we born again, that we should be pleasing to God, who is justly displeased with that which we brought with us when we were born. This is our first alms, which we give to ourselves when, through the mercy of a pitying God, we find that we are ourselves wretched, and confess the justice of His judgment by which we are made wretched, of which the apostle says, *The judgment was by one to condemnation*; and praise the greatness of His love, of which the same preacher of grace says, *God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*: and thus judging truly of our own misery, and loving God with the love which He has Himself bestowed, we lead a holy and virtuous life. But the Pharisees, while they gave as alms the tithe of all their fruits, even the most insignificant, passed over judgment and the love of God, and so did not commence their almsgiving at home, and extend their pity to themselves in the first instance. And it is in reference to this order of love that it is said, *Love your neighbor as yourself*. When, then, our Lord had rebuked them because they made themselves clean on the outside, but within were full of ravening and wickedness, He advised them, in the exercise of that charity which each man owes to himself in the first instance, to make clean the inward parts. But rather, He says, *give alms of such things as you have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you*. Then, to show what it was that He advised, and what they took no pains to do, and to show that He did not overlook or forget their almsgiving, *But woe unto you, Pharisees!* He says; as if He meant to say: I indeed advise you to give alms which shall make all things clean unto you; but woe unto you! *For you tithe mint, and rue, and all manner of herbs*; as if He meant to say: I know these alms of yours, and you need not think that I am now admonishing you in respect of such things; and pass over judgment and the love of God, an alms by which you might have been made clean from all inward impurity, so that even the bodies which you are now washing would have been clean to you. For this is the import of all things, both inward and outward things, as we read in another place: *Cleanse first that which is within, that the outside may be clean also*. But lest He might appear to despise the alms which they were giving out of the fruits of the earth, He says: *These ought ye to have done*, referring to judgment and the love of God, and not to leave the other undone, referring to the giving of the tithes. ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapter 76

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

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

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Psalm – 149

The Catechism – Baptism – Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” *Mark 16:16*

Daily Readings:

Sunday, November 23 – Revelations 20:1-15 (*Commemoration of Clement of Rome, Pastor*)

Monday, November 24 – Revelations 21:1-8

Tuesday, November 25 – Revelations 21:9-27

Wednesday, November 26 – Revelations 22:1-21

Thursday, November 27 – 1 Peter 1:1-12

Friday, November 28 – 1 Peter 1:13-25

Saturday, November 29 – 1 Peter 2:1-12 (*Commemoration of Noah*)

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

Let us pray...O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Gail Acker; Lindy Amabile; Peggy Arciero; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Hubert Bauer; Jim Baum; David Bayley; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Tara Coppola; Ingrid Chopping; Jackie Cutler & Family; Lucy Decker; Jeanne Demmers; Ed Doepp; Ruth Dorsty; Charlie Erb; Holly Erb; Carol Foth; Anne Grant; Matthew Grau; Michael Hanrahan; Rebecca Helsom; Barbara Helwig; Olivia Hintz; Arthur Holden; The Hole Family; Kelly Housto; Marilyn Jorg; Bill Kopf; Alfred Longhitano; Alex Lopacki; Sue Madsen; Dorothy Mistler; Terri O'Brian; Douglas Pabst; Michael Panarese; Gabrielle Pancir; Bryan Paul; Joe Pinz; Carol Rappolt; Christian Rappolt; Joann Roland; Alice Ryan; Lisa Schantz; Dakota Schmidt; Art Schmidt; Chuck Scott; Judy Scott; Carol Shaw; Judy Smith; Dina St. Giles; Bill & Deanna Suckow; Gertrude Sutorius; Alessandra Trevisan; Ingrid Vessie; Patrice Vitalino; Jo-Ann Walther; Jack Whitehouse; Alex Wilson; Edward Zerbe

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

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

(Evening) 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.

Hymn for the Week – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

LSB #411, st. 3

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

† Look Ahead for Next Week:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44