

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

My heart is glad & my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (v9)

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes & your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again & again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ...¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new & living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience & our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love & good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, & all the more as you see the Day approaching.

LISTENING TO . . .

**note: references to [Lutheran Confessions](http://bookofconcord.org) available < bookofconcord.org >*

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. Review *Exodus* 24:3-8, 40:12-15 (Old Covenant ceremony; priests' washing) *Leviticus* 16:2-34 (atonement & entering Most Holy Place). How does *Hebrews* use these Old Testament ceremonies to show Jesus' sacrifice as fulfilling *Exodus* 19:5-6 in a greater & perfect way? See *1 Peter* 2:9-10
2. The devil loves to discourage God's people (consider *Job*; *John* 8:44). How do the following make the case for Christians' need to be encouraged together (v25)? See *Acts* 4:36, 14:22, 15:32, 16:40, 18:27, 20:2, 27:36; *Romans* 1:12, 15:4-5; *Ephesians* 6:22, *1 Thessalonians* 3:7, 3:7, 4:18, 5:11, 5:14

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. Read about the connection between justification & good works. Review these passages from Jesus & St. Paul. What good works has the Lord prepared for you to do in your particular everyday life? See *1 Corinthians* 12:1-11; *Ephesians* 2:10, 4:1-16; AC*XX AP*XX:92; FC-EP* IV; FC-SD*IV: 14-40
4. The Covid19 crisis colliding with generational changes has decimated or worse weekly church attendance (cf. v25). “Committed” is now 1-2 Sundays per month plus occasional monthly activities. How does your attendance measure? Your church office can print your record. What is consistently more important than weekly worship in your everyday life? See *Matthew* 13:1-23, 24:42-51, 25:1-13; *Small* & Large Catechisms**: 1st, 3rd Commandments

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. The Lutheran reformers were clear that God doesn't need our good works (cf. *Psalms* 50:7-23; *Hosea* 6:6; *Micah* 6:8; *Matthew* 9:10-13, 12:1-13), but our neighbors do. What good works in the neighborhood/community is your congregation known for? By the way, good works are not merely fundraising/dispersing or necessarily “charitable” in the sense of giving away things like food, clothing, etc. (Yes, those things are good to do, too.) See *Luke* 10:25-37; *2 Cor* 8:1-9:15
6. “If you were accused of being a Christian, would they have enough evidence to convict?” goes the old saw. Review the SC*'s Table of Duties & AC* XVI:5. How do these change your perspective on a life of good works benefiting your neighbors? Remember, God gives us good works in everyday life, we don't make them up for ourselves.

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25th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Love God & Love Neighbor

11.14.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Day Approaches

Time is short. Let's not mess around; spend our time & energy on love.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Let us consider how to provoke one another
to love & good deeds. (v24)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength
to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 23:36)**

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