

Daily e-mail devotions (Mon. – Sat.), written by various pastors from around the synod, are available through our CLC sister-congregation in Sister Lakes, MI. If you are interested in receiving these devotions, go to www.redeemer.info/devotional.html and follow the simple directions found on that webpage. Printed below is this past Thursday's e-devotions.

1 Peter 1:6-9 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith; the salvation of your souls.

NOW FOR A LITTLE WHILE

We Christians are and ought to be happy people, rejoicing people. After all, Jesus' apostle Peter has told us that we are on our way to heaven because of the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. He has told us that God Himself will keep us in the faith even to our last day.

Now Peter tells us we have reason to be joyful even though we are temporarily in a state of grief because God has sent various trials into our lives. What kind of trials? The first readers of Peter's letter were being persecuted for their faith in Christ. They were being unjustly accused of wrongdoing by their enemies, the unbelievers. Being slandered, hurt, imprisoned -- these things are grievous trials, but Peter says we still have reason to rejoice. What Christ has done for us still stands, without change.

What trials are you going through right now? Family crises? Health problems? Financial difficulties? How are you dealing with these things?

Peter tells us these things are only for a time, in contrast to the heavenly joy, which lasts forever. Peter also tells us that God has something good in mind for us through these trials. Through these trials, whatever they may be, God purifies our faith. Just as gold is tested in the fire and comes out showing that it is indeed gold, so our faith goes through fiery trials and shows itself to be genuine faith. For it is faith that God has created and preserves through His Word. And such faith, which endures forever, is much more precious than gold that perishes. In the end we shall indeed see how God has made even our trials serve for our eternal good, even as He works all things together for good to those who love Him, to those who are His called ones.

When Jesus returns on the last day, we Christians by faith in Christ will be given praise and honor and glory. Something to be joyful about!

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*A Depiction of the Throne-Room of
Heaven as Described in Revelation*

NOVEMBER 24, 2013 – 26TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR)

Pre-service Meditation: Ps. 150, pg. 157

Organist: Vickie Schreyer

Pastor: Opening Prayer

Hymn 465 — *Christ Is Our Corner-Stone*

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost.

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

People: *And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.*

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

People: *Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, Is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Hallelujah!*

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

People: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

People: Almighty God, merciful Father, I am sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions. But I am sorry for my transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto me. Forgive me for Jesus' sake, renew me by Your Spirit, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven you all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*[All Sing]: God, we praise You! God, we bless You!
God, we name You sovereign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship,
Father by Your Church adored: All creation shows Your glory;
Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne
Singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts and God alone!"*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Prayer for the Day

People: *Amen.*

Hymn 613 — *Jerusalem the Golden*

The Offering

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + Benediction

All: Amen, amen, amen!

Hymn 54 — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

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Announcements

- **Today** — A Bible Class presentation is scheduled to follow this morning's worship service.
- **Wednesday** — Thanksgiving Eve worship here at Faith begins at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** — Thanksgiving Day worship at Grace-Sleepy Eye begins at 9 a.m.
- **Next Sunday** — Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services (Communion) begin at 9 a.m. Worship (Communion) here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m..
- **Thanksgiving Eve Worship:** Our upcoming Thanksgiving Eve worship will be this Wednesday at 7 p.m. Also, for any who may not be able to attend our evening service, keep in mind our Thanksgiving Day service (Thursday, Nov. 28) at Grace-Sleepy Eye at 9 a.m.
- **Weather Announcements:** Please remember, if/when weather becomes an issue here in the coming months, please tune in to KNUJ Radio for any potential service cancellation announcements.

Our Response of Faith — November 17, 2013

Attendance: 19

Unified Budget.....	\$470.50
CLC Mission Development Fund	\$ 60.00
Total.....	\$530.50

ing, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Pastor: Here ends our 2nd Scripture reading.

People: *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

The Apostles' Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 12

Hymn 616 — *Forever with the Lord*

The Sermon – Revelation 21:1-7

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

“Heaven”

The Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free spirit.

1st Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:42-58

So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Pastor: Alleluia, Alleluia. *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)* Alleluia!

Congregation: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2nd Scripture Reading – Luke 23:39-43

People: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*

Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answer-