

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
MONDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL SERIES



**GRACE IS MORE HOPEFUL
THAN YOUR DESPAIR**

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September 25, 2023

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THE SENTENCES

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We have come into the presence of God, Who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven 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 God give You strength to live according to His will.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

Amen.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

First Reading.....Hebrews 12:1-2

Second Reading.....Jeremiah 29:11

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

~Psalm 33:18,20-22 (spoken responsively)

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

SERMON

"Grace Is More Hopeful than Your Despair"
Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the
Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you
all.

Amen.

(If desired, please stay for Holy Communion)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.