

## EVERY DAY WITH JESUS (November 9 – 15)

Savor a segment of the gospel each day so that you may...

*“...grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.” “II Peter 3:18)*

**November 9 Luke 21:1-4** Before considering today’s reading - take some time to consider prayerfully who God is and how much he has done for you.<sup>1</sup> Then think about how much you appreciate him and his blessings and how you show that appreciation.<sup>2</sup> The woman in today’s reading tossed her two coins into one of 13 boxes with trumpet shaped openings. Perhaps in the day of coins only money, the opening ‘trumpeted’ out to all the size of one’s offering. The rich with their offerings maybe made a wonderful racket. She, on the other hand made a little tinkling sound with her two coins, each worth 1/128 of a laborer’s day’s wage (in today’s wages each was worth less than a nickel). Yet, concerning her Jesus said that she put in “all the living that she had” (literal translation). How do my thanks compare? What do they say to those around me?<sup>3</sup>

**Prayer:** Father, whatever my offering is to you, let it be such that it is evident that you alone are my priceless Treasure. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Consider the mystery of the Trinity and all God’s attributes. Then consider all that this God has given you: your body, needs for life, job, family, health, talents, good government, good weather, etc. But most of all consider his spiritual blessings: grace, his Son (and all that that means), the Spirit, adoption as sons, forgiveness, eternal life and the like. <sup>2</sup>Answers will vary. <sup>3</sup>This is a serious matter for each of us to consider privately before our God. Am I just putting in out of my abundance of time, offerings, abilities? Or even less? Where my heartfelt thankfulness to God for all his goodness is not evident, in the Spirit let’s repent, that is, change our course of action, and give to God our best.

**November 10 Luke 21:5-9** Eight years ago we as a nation and world watched as enemies of the state caused two towers to fall in Manhattan. In their falling more than just two towers crumbled. A way of life ended. In 70 A.D. Jerusalem fell to the Romans. Name ways of life that ended with that fall.<sup>1</sup> What are we to learn from this for ourselves?<sup>2</sup> Of the signs of the end listed here, which are most frightening?<sup>3</sup>

**Prayer:** Eternal God, all around us we see chaos, turmoil, wars, strife, crime, disease, natural disasters. But none of these compare with those enemies that would wound and destroy our souls. Therefore, keep us in your care and steadfast in faith, so that in Christ we may overcome them and win the victory. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> The temple was destroyed with all its worship rites, ceremonies, sacrifices. The city by in large was emptied of Jews. They were not allowed in the city for years nor were they ever to rebuild the temple. <sup>2</sup>The ‘shadow’ of what the Old Testament temple and its ceremonies and sacrifices all pointed to was replaced by their reality, Jesus, and he fulfilled all that they pictured. The old had passed away and the new had come. <sup>3</sup>Any time that Jesus talks about false ‘Christs’ and false prophets, we should be most frightened – for these, unlike wars and tumults, can destroy both our body and soul. Take heart though – Luther wrote about Jesus: “But for us fights the Valiant one whom God himself elected, He’s by our side upon the plain, with his good gifts and Spirit.” CW 200 2, 4

**November 11 Luke 21:10-38** Jesus’ talk about the end of the temple (yesterday’s reading) naturally lead him into a discussion about the end of the world. As Jesus’ life was quickly drawing to a close here, as he knew it was, he lets us know of how the pace would similarly quicken as the world faced its end. List the distinctive ‘signs’ of the end and note how many of them have already taken place. Actually, doesn’t it seem that the birth pangs are getting stronger and closer together? It can all be rather frightening, but note the comforts that Jesus gives us in this reading.<sup>1</sup> Of these comforts, which is your favorite and why?<sup>2</sup> Until that end comes, what comforting thing can we learn from vv. 37 and 38 about what we can and should be doing?<sup>3</sup>

**Prayer:** Thank you, LORD, for I am continually with you, you are holding me by my right hand, and leading me to glory. With that I need nothing else in heaven or on earth. Amen. (see Ps. 73)

<sup>1</sup>Note verses 13and14, 17 -19, 28, 31and 32, 34-36. <sup>2</sup> Answers will vary. <sup>3</sup>In the Father we can do as Jesus did, calmly go about our lives and keep teaching others about Jesus knowing there still will be hearers.

**November 12 Luke 22:1-6** “It didn’t have to be this way.” Have you ever heard those words or used them? They are often said in sadness and as a loving rebuke to a person whose sinful reckless behavior brought that person into a tragic situation - diseased, in jail, or worse. “It didn’t have to be this way.” How did the chief priests and scribes and Judas justly deserve these words spoken about them?<sup>1</sup> How may we avoid having them spoken about us?<sup>2</sup>

**Prayer.** Lord Jesus, by your Spirit work in me so I am a blessed hearer and doer of your Word. Grant that I in you overcome, so you need not say to or of me, “It didn’t have to be this way.” Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Each had had many opportunities to hear Jesus, test Scripture concerning him, repent of their ways. Instead of deciding Jesus’ fate before trial, or betraying him, they, by God’s grace and Spirit, could have praised “The one who comes in the name of the LORD.” <sup>2</sup>The seven letters to the seven churches that we read at the beginning of the book of Revelation repeat the phrases “He who has ears let him hear,” and “He who overcomes.” Only by the Spirit and in Christ can we do those things. It is for that reason that Jesus spoke the words of Luke 22:34-36. Praise God that in Christ “It does not have to be that way.”

**November 13 Luke 22:7-23** Find a quiet spot to read this reading and then close your eyes and visualize the scenes, actions, words, facial expressions, emotions in your mind. What in your mind’s eye is most memorable about the scene and the words spoken there and why?<sup>1</sup> Concerning the ‘is’ that Jesus used to speak of the bread and cup in these verses, Luther said, “Is is is and always is is.” What does this mean?<sup>2</sup> Finally, note in v. 22 that even though how Jesus’ life would end was determined by God from eternity, Judas was morally responsible and culpable for his action in bringing about that end.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared a feast for our salvation. As weary souls, let us come to you and partake of your feast for needed rest, comfort and pardon. Amen. (CW 312)

<sup>1</sup>Answers will vary. <sup>2</sup>Let’s re-punctuate – “‘Is’ is ‘is’ and always is ‘is.’” Translation – The word ‘is’ never means ‘represents’ or ‘symbolizes’ as those who do not accept the ‘real presence’ of Christ’s body and blood in the sacrament say. When Jesus distributed bread and wine and said, “This is my body”, “This is my blood,” he meant, “This is exactly what I say it is.” Therefore the Lord’s Supper still is – his body and his blood.

**November 14 Luke 22:24-30** Why are we so concerned about status? “I deserve my due,” we might say. But have we ever thought of “Because of my sinful stupidity, foolishness, and arrogance”? We like ‘my due’ better, but the other answer is more realistic, isn’t it? How did the disciples show that they were more important in their own eyes than their teacher?<sup>1</sup> How do we do the same?<sup>2</sup>

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, let me see and imitate you in your humility that I out of love for you may humble myself before you and your Word, and humbly serve those around me. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>They missed the point of Jesus’ examples of service throughout his ministry, and they missed the point of his telling them in plain words of his going to the cross for them and us. Neither had an impact on them. While the salvation of the world was playing out before their very eyes, even though they saw, touched and handled the Word of life, they disputed, hours before his death, as to which *of them* was the greatest. <sup>2</sup>By insisting on God kowtowing to us and on getting our way in *his* Church; by not submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ, by seeking to be served and not to serve, etc. etc.

**November 15 Luke 22:31-34** The Greek shows us that in verse 31 when Jesus uses ‘you’ he is talking to and about the disciples, “you guys”. In verse 32 the Greek shows he is addressing Peter alone. Peter showed the brave face, Jesus showed him reality. And in the process he also showed us the reality about us, “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” But he also showed that those who fall are not, by necessity, eternally out of the running, “When you have turned again.” What words of hope for Peter and us!!!! With these words in your mind, please read Ezekiel 18. What does God desire for all people, for you and me?<sup>1</sup>

**Prayer:** Thank you, Lord God, for having mercy on such as we, and for picking us up when we fall, which we often do. Open our mouths to speak of you to fellow ‘fallers’ so through us you may lift them up and restore them, as you have done for Peter and us. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> 1Timothy 2:4.