

FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words from the following Scripture verses.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your _____ name _____ in all the earth! You have set your glory above the _____ heavens _____. — Psalm 8:1

_____ Blessed _____ is the man who fears the _____ LORD _____, who greatly delights in his commandments! — Psalm 112:1

For you are my _____ lamp _____, O LORD, and my God _____ lightens _____ my darkness. — 2 Samuel 22:29

Create in me a clean _____ heart _____, O God, and renew a right _____ spirit _____ within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your _____ Holy Spirit _____ from me. _____ Restore _____ to me the joy of your _____ salvation _____, and uphold me with a willing _____ spirit _____. — Psalm 51:10-12

God is _____ faithful _____, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the _____ temptation _____ he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. — 1 Corinthians 10:13b

No servant can serve two masters, for either he will _____ hate _____ the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and _____ money _____. — Luke 16:13



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Lambs at Pasture™

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

2017

INTROIT

Psalm 54:1-3, 7; antiphon: Psalm 54:4-5

Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.
O God, save me, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.
O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves.

For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 112:1

Alleluia. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #730 — What is the World to Me

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Seventh Commandment with Explanation (page 13)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 51:1–12

What does this psalm tell us about sin?

This psalm shows us that there is no sin too terrible that God will not forgive. We are to ask God for forgiveness and He will grant us mercy through His steadfast love.

Hear Luther's comment: "This psalm is one of the chief didactic [teaching] psalms in which David teaches us what sin is, where it comes from, and the harm it does, and how we can get rid of it. For in this psalm, as nowhere else, sin is clearly depicted for what it is, namely, something we have inherited and are born with, which no work on our part, but only God's grace and forgiveness, can help. God must create in us a new spirit, give us a new spiritual birth; if not, sin is so powerful, that, according to David's psalm, it will crush our bones with fright and despair until God's grace comes to comfort us. Then, when we have been made new people by grace and Spirit, and only then can we properly teach, praise, give thanks, and bear our crosses. That is what true worship is about, and the psalmist rejects all other forms of worship resorted to by foolish saints, and finally he asks God to edify and strengthen Zion so they can offer God such worship and sacrifice."

Where in the Divine Service do verses 10-12 appear?

The Offertory — it is sung in response to God's Word and preaching.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 81 (pages 98–99), question 162 (pages 153–154), question 224 (pages 193–194), and question 261 (page 218)

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read 2 Samuel 22:26–34

How does God give David strength? (verses 28–34)

Verse 28 — God saves the humble, and brings the haughty to repentance.

Verse 29 — God is the lamp, the source providing joy, consolation, and salvation.

Verse 30 — God provides strength.

Verse 31 — God protects those who take refuge in Him.

Verse 32 — God is our Rock, our constant giving us steadfast (never-ending) love.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Luke 16:1–9 (10–13)

What did the manager do?

The steward had been wasting [his master's] goods, no doubt feasting and living a life of borrowed luxury at his master's expense, and was caught in his wrong-doings. Yet when he was told that he was about to be fired from his position, he developed a means by which his temporal welfare (earthly lifestyle) would be ensured. He made friends with those who owed his master, and re-figured their debts in their favor. For by cutting what these debtors owed, he helped them out, and put his master in a favorable light. These debtors did not know that the steward was about to be fired. They most likely assumed that the master, out of his generosity, had sent his servant to cut their debt. Because he's the steward (the manager of his master's property,

possessions, and business interests), the manager can legally give discounts; discounts which the master would legally have to respect. The end result is that the manager basically steals from the master to buy future favors from these people.

Why did the master commend the manager?

The steward, knowing that he was soon to be out of a job, used the good nature of his master to make some new-found friends, who, when his stewardship came to an end, would gladly welcome him into their homes because of his shrewd maneuvering.

How does this parable relate to your life as a Christian?

All are stewards, every man, woman, and child; everyone who has ever lived or will live, Christian and non-Christian alike. The difference is, the Christian drowns the naturally dishonest servant (Old Adam) who does not trust that God will provide for all the needs to support the body and life. And the Christian knows that he does this, not by his own will, but by the grace of God; through the Word and Sacraments which God has richly provided. And so, daily drowning the dishonest servant, the Christian arises, refreshed and strengthened through Word and Sacrament, trusting in God and using that which God has provided to serve the neighbor.

Now make no mistake, your use of His goods can, in no way, earn you entrance into, or habitation of, your heavenly home. God forbid you ever think it. Jesus, and He alone, won the right for you to share His heavenly home. Christ Jesus, who never mismanaged anything entrusted to Him by His Father His entire life, offered as one great sacrifice to God, thus wiping out the debt of sin and restoring to all who believe and are baptized into Him the joy of being beloved children of the heavenly Father. He is the One, who by His suffering and death has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6–13

What does Paul warn us of?

Paul warns us not to become puffed up, and believe that we cannot fall from faith. The Israelites knew they were God's chosen people (He had told them as much), and yet they often forgot this, thinking they could not fall from grace. As we live in this life, our spiritual enemies (the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh) are ever trying to snatch us away from God, ever trying to get us to forget that He is our dear Father, ever trying to get us to fall away from the faith God has given us. Yet despite whatever temptations our enemies may place before us, God has given us the means to overcome them — His holy Word. When temptations arise, and they do, we must ever cling to God's Word. His Word and the promises He makes to us in it, are our only source of true comfort and contentment amidst temptation. He will not lead us into temptation, but remind us that He is the giver of all good, our Rock, our Refuge, our Strength.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 230 (pages 197–198)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the 7th Commandment with Explanation and Trinity IX?

"You shall not steal" is a theme throughout the readings.