



## Pastor's Notes

Dear Friends,

You may have noticed that all three scripture readings, as well as the psalm, have been restored to our Sunday worship. We do this in keeping with the order of service in our ELW hymnals, the intent of the Revised Common Lectionary, as well as church tradition for generations of Lutherans (and other Christians) across the globe.

That we should hold reading from the Bible as vitally important comes as no surprise. After all, God himself—in the person of Christ Jesus—held the Hebrew Bible of his day (the Old Testament) as the theological authority.



Jesus commissioned his followers to take the Gospel message to the ends of the earth. Eventually, they wrote about the things they had seen and others they had learned about from eyewitnesses into the texts that make up the New Testament. In the centuries that would follow, the leaders of the church would guard these texts, diligently working to keep them safe and free from heretical intrusions.

Of course, Martin Luther would eventually arrive on the scene, citing scripture - the authoritative word of God - in his writings about the concerns he had with the Church and its policies that did not match up with biblical truths.

Today, we Lutherans view the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) as “the inspired Word of God and authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.”

Additionally, we view the Creeds and the Book of Concord as faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures, and therefore they also serve as guides for us on our Christian journey.

While hearing the Sunday Gospel reading is good and proper, we do ourselves a disservice if we omit the other prescribed scriptures for the day. They are put together for a reason; often a preacher can tie them together in a sermon. Other times the connection might be to help us understand another text. We call this “scripture interpreting scripture.”



I also want to point out that the Gospel message - the words that tell of the crucified, died and risen Christ and his atonement for the sins of humanity - can be found in the other readings for the day as well. Sometimes it might be easy, and other times more challenging. On rare occasion, you might have to “borrow a cup of sugar” from a neighboring verse. But ultimately all scripture records and announces God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ.

Friends, let us give a prayer of thanksgiving for having the Holy Bible in our lives. Let us give thanks for the Creeds and Confessions that flow from those scriptures, and above all let us give thanks for Christ Jesus, who is our Savior and Lord.

When was the last time you picked up your bible, read the prescribed verses for the week, and prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide you in your understanding? May you be blessed this week with time to let go of the concerns of the world, and immerse yourself in the word of God.

Wishing you the Lord’s peace,

✠ *Pastor Brian Moeller*