

ABOUT the EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Theme: The Treasures of the Kingdom

– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

God set apart the Hebrews as a people for Himself. (Deuteronomy) He knew what they needed, and so He gave it. God also gives us what we need. Faced with affliction, we often ask “why?” – forgetting that in all things He works for the good of those who love Him. (Romans) Having been called, we know we were first predestined, are now justified, and will one day be glorified in the likeness of His Son. A great treasure, a pearl of high price, are all those who belong to the Kingdom. (Matthew) For the joy of our redemption, our dear Lord went and gave all He had so that He might purchase us with His body and blood to be His own. One day His angels will separate the wicked from the righteous. For now the great enterprise of the Kingdom includes one and all. May the Lord Himself give us eyes to see what He is doing in and through His church!

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and thanksgivings to our heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Why, and how, were the Hebrews a ‘holy’ people? What motivated the LORD to choose the Hebrews? What are the implications of this for them? ...for us today? What does this mean?
- Monday** Romans 8:28-39 What is God’s ultimate purpose in the affairs of this world? Is that always immediately clear? Are you among those He has called? How then may you know that you are within God’s plan? Where will that plan take you finally? What does this mean?
- Tuesday** Matthew 13:44-52 What price did Jesus pay to purchase those who belong to the kingdom of heaven? Why therefore is your value not found in “self esteem” but in Christ’s esteem? Before the end of the age, who may be found among the company of the faithful? How will the wicked be removed from among the righteous? How ought this affect the faithful now? How is this done?
- Wednesday** Psalm 125 Why are those who trust in the LORD like Mount Zion? [Make a list.] What, therefore, is the prayer of the psalmist? What does this mean for us today?
- Thursday** Isaiah 55:1-5 What is the remarkable thing in God’s economy? How does the LORD feed the souls of the faithful? How are we fed especially “by ear?” For whom is the love of the LORD intended? How does He extend His invitation to those who do not presently know Him? What does this mean?
- Friday** Romans 9:1-5 For what people group was Paul in anguish? Why? List the unique gifts the LORD gave to Israel. Why were these important to God’s people of old? To us today? How is the Christian church God’s new Israel? What does this mean? (see also vv. 6-13)
- Saturday** Matthew 14:13-21 What was Jesus’ reaction to the large crowd? Why? How did Jesus feed them? What happened then? How does He feed us? What therefore ought happen among us? How is this done?