


Historic Scripture Lessons for the  Eighth Sunday after Trinity  
Old Testament

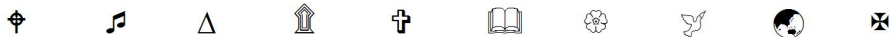
**Jeremiah 15:19-21 NIV** Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve Me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be My spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. 20 I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD. 21 "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel."

**Epistle**

**Romans 8:12-17** Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His Glory.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 7:15-23** "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'LORD, LORD,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'LORD, LORD, did we not prophesy in Your Name, and in Your Name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!'"



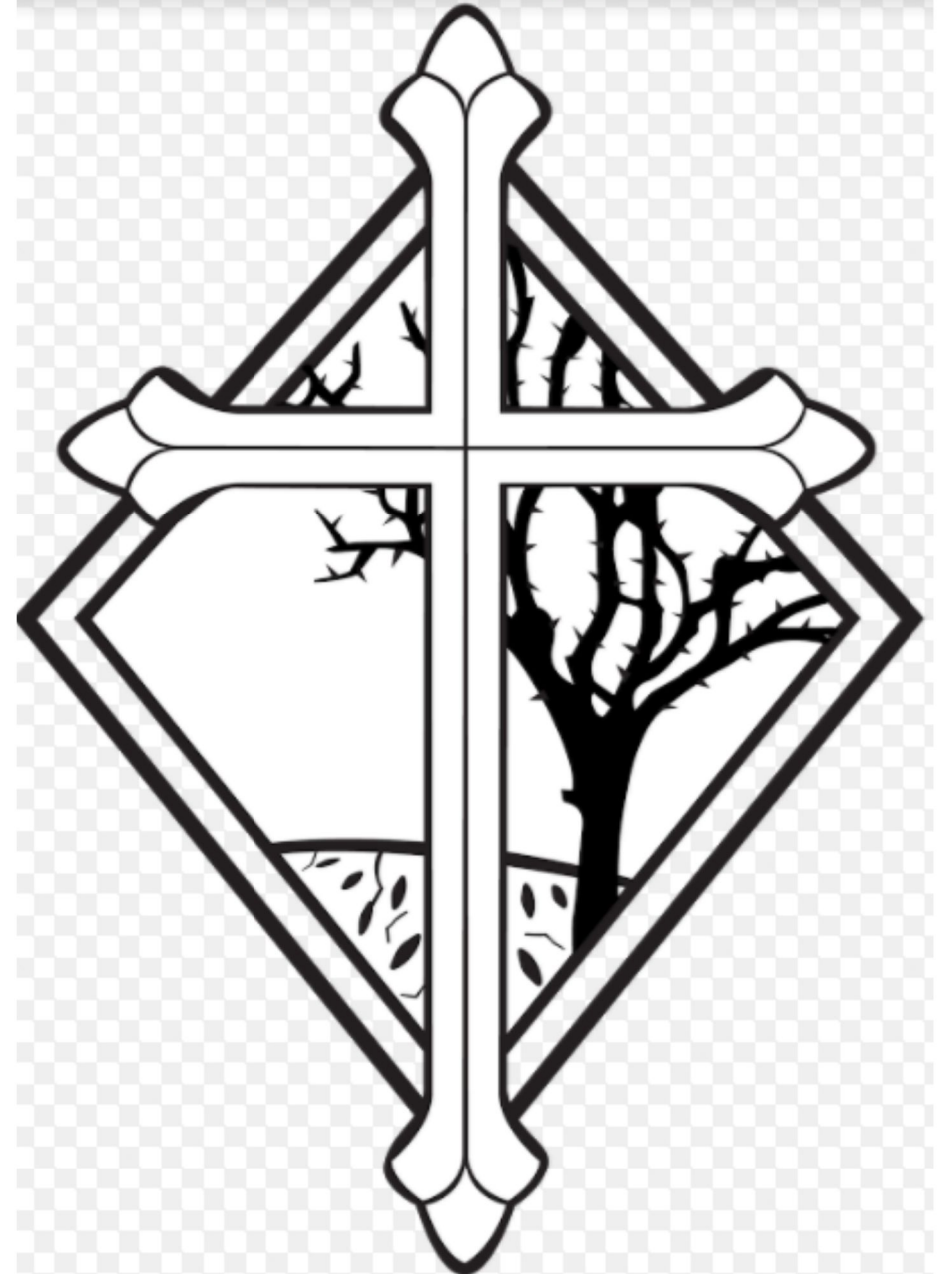
 **LORD, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word** TLH# 261 Martin Luther 

**1. LORD, keep us steadfast in Thy Word; Curb those who vainly by craft and sword Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son And set at naught all He hath done.**

**2. LORD Jesus Christ, Thy power make known, For Thou art LORD of lords alone; Defend Thy Christendom that we May evermore sing praise to Thee.**

**3. O Comforter of priceless worth. Send peace and unity on earth. Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life. A--men.**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Eighth Sunday after Trinity  Beware of False Prophets  
Coming in Sheep's Clothes  August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017  9:30am



Historic Church Year Symbol  **Trinity-8 Matthew 7:15-23** Fruits & thorns

Image courtesy of Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://luthersynodpublishing.com>

# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✘ A.R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✘ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

## August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ✘ Trinity-8 Beware False Prophets

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP** On the silver insert sheets or in red TLH hymnal **p.15**

Service		
Invocation Hymn	262 (4v)	Ein' Festé Burg (aka. A Mighty Fortress)
Hymn of the Day	290 (4v)	We Have a Sure Prophetic Word
Offertory Verse	179 (1v)	1 verse On My Heart Imprint Thine Image
Distribution Hymn	315 (15)	I Come O Savior to Thy Table
Closing Hymn	261 (3v)	LORD, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
II Sam. 19:1-23	I Chr. .21:1-30	I Chr. .22:1-19	I Chr. .28:1-21	I Chr. .29:1-23	II Chron. 1:1-13
I Cor. 12:12-31	I Cor. 14:1-40	I Cor. 16:1-24	II Cor. 1:1-24	II Cor. .2:1-3:3	II Cor. 6:11-8

### PROPERs for THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ☺ AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

**INTROIT** We have thought, O God, on Your loving-kindness, in the midst of Your Temple. According to Your Name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth. Your Right Hand is full of righteousness. Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness.

...from Psalm 48

**COLLECT** Grant to us, LORD, we beseech You, the Spirit to think and do always such things that are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ A- - -men.

**GRADUAL C:** Be my strong Rock, a House of defense to save me. I put my trust in You, O LORD; let me never be ashamed. Alleluia! Alleluia! O My people, hear My teaching; incline your ears to the Words of My mouth. Alleluia!

...from Psalm 78

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Jeremiah 15:19-21** God's spokesmen speak worthy words.  
Epi. **Romans 8:12-17** All led by God's Spirit are His sons & daughters.  
Gos. **Matthew 7:15-23** Jesus warns to guard against false prophets.

**SERMON THEME: "FAITH TRUSTS GOD'S PROMISES"** Thank you Pr. Mark Wold!

**Sermon Text: 1 Kings 17:8-16 NIV** Then the Word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." 12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread - only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it - and die." 13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the Word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

**TLH 179 On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace, That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface.**

**This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,**

**Is my life, my hope's Foundation, And my Glory and Salvation. A-men.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for ...
	Harold Strohl (Connie Costenbader's dad)	Is in poor (failing) health in MD
	Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's Will be done. Jim at home. BP way down & up
	Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee suffers significant pain. David is help & support
	Janice Thomas	Results from nephrologist. Nephrostomy continues (August)
	James Vanesky & Delores	Pray health and strength for both Jim and Delores
	Pr. Randy VanMehren (Robin)	Pr. VanMehren is back home recuperating
	Matthew Wold (Mark)	PTL! Matthew declared "NED" No Evidence of Disease

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Treaters	Linda & Steven Springer	Bev&Don - Pulled Pork Sand.

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday Attendance/(Communion)	20 / (20)	25 / 24
Bible Class Attendance (Sunday)	6	7
Sunday Offering for The LORD	\$. <sup>00</sup>	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	NO Bible Study Heb. Take a week break
Trinity-8 Beware!	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
(of False Prophets)	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk
Next Sunday 8/13	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 10 J.C, Mediator in Midst
Trinity-9 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
(Christian Stewards)	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Next Sunday 8/13 Trinity-9 (p.15 W/ L.S.) Hymn #s 438 422 441.1,2 442 428

**TRINITY-8(B) Matthew 7:15-23 " WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHES" 08.06.16 PLL**

PRAYER Lord God, we most heartily thank You that You have caused us to come to the knowledge of Your Word. We pray, graciously keep us steadfast in this knowledge unto death, that we may obtain eternal life. Send us pious pastors who faithfully preach Your word, without offense or false doctrine, and grant them long life. Defend us from all false teachings, and frustrate the counsels of all who pervert Your word, who come to us in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves, that Your true Church may always be established among us and be defended and preserved from such false teachers; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*In the Name of the Lord of the Church, Dear Fellow Redeemed;*

INTRODUCTION My beloved flock, heed my stern warning to you:

***Beware and avoid false teachers that come in sheep's clothing.***

I remember a saying from my childhood: **A clock that does not move is still right twice a day.** Why? The progression of hours every day is the same. If my clock never goes past **12:34** no matter, in 12 hours more, will be 12:34 again. A clock that does not move must be right twice every 24 hours. What is the problem then? Why do we say that a clock that does not move does not work? Because it shows the correct time by chance alone. If it's 12:34 in the morning, the clock is correct. But, if not, how do we ensure it is the correct time? There is no certain rule.

However, in every age some people gain fame and wealth as "prophets" through this principle, ie, the pattern of the days to come is equal to those that have passed. For example, there lived in the 16th century **Nostradamus**, an astrologer who wrote in cryptic terms of disasters of various types, including epidemics, earthquakes, wars, floods, murders, drought, battles, and other similar topics. Even today, many people have interpreted the prophecies of Nostradamus to refer to specific events such as the First World War, the death of Pope John Paul I, or the attack on the Twin Towers in New York.

The "prophets" who speak vaguely of wars and disasters in the future can sometimes be "right" in the sense of the clock that does not move. But we **canNOT** trust them, because only God knows the future and has revealed all that is necessary for us to know in the Holy Scriptures.

In our text for today, **the Lord speaks of false prophets**, more dangerous than those who cheat people for fame and riches. *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"* They speak not only of the future of this world, but also the life to come. **Deliberately they falsify the Word of God**, and replace eternal truth with their own lies and the wisdom of fallible men. They come without invitation, without Call, but have the habit of **going to those people who are believers** in an attempt to persuade them from the truth.

They are wise in their own eyes and in the forms of deception, but proceed in a very discreet way, in the mantle of innocence. They profess to have a commission from God Himself and are **experts at faking kindness**. But their true character will show itself at last that by inclination and training they are ravenous wolves. Their nature is to devour, they are money-hungry, ambitious of power, but anxious, above all, to destroy the soul. They are murderers of souls of men.

In what way? The end of **ALL** false doctrine is the same: **to deny the Good News of Jesus Christ**. That is, that Christ, the Son of God and true man, has paid full price for our sins by His sacrifice on the Cross. Salvation is only through faith in Christ, not by good works. False teachers can start teaching error in several ways: to despise the authority of Scripture or the work of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments, denying that Christ is the only Savior: commanding things God has not commanded or forbidding what God has not prohibited. However it appears, the ultimate goal is to drive people away from the central truth of **justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ**. And this is the way to eternal death.

Now you may ask, **How can a wolf in sheep's clothing fool anybody?** It seems like a very clumsy disguise. Who would ever mistake a wolf wrapped in sheepskin for a real sheep?

The answer is, (WE) **sheep would make that mistake**. Sheep are not the mensa candidates of the animal kingdom. But I am not really talking about dumb beasts - **I am talking about US**. We are spiritually UNintelligent beasts by nature. We have extremely poor discernment in spiritual matters, because **our feelings so easily lead us astray**.

We feel like a preacher is good if he **feels soft and warm** - but that could be the sheep's clothing on a wolf. Wool can feel nice and comfortable. **A preacher can feel pleasant to us**. But that does **not** make him a true preacher. Therefore, do not trust the warmth and softness of your preacher (**even if he happens to be a true preacher**). That is nothing in which to put your trust. A true preacher will not always feel soft. A wool-wrapped wolf may feel so soft and warm that he could devour you long before you know anything is wrong.

Likewise, when Jesus said, *"You will know them by their fruits,"* He did not mean that we should judge preachers by whether they do good works or **whether they sin**. That is to judge a wolf by how soft and warm it seems. If a Teacher of the Word is a sinner, **then you know that he is human**. You do not know whether he is a true teacher or not. You have to judge his doctrine. Does he **teach the true faith purely?** That's the **only** way to know.

This requires maturity and knowledge. You cannot simply hear the man mention the Name of Jesus and hear that he is preaching from a text of Scripture. If a man gives lip service to Christ, that proves nothing. As Christ said, not everyone who says to Him, **"Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom.**

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...*

The real question is, **Do these preachers uphold Scripture?** Do they uphold the Salvation given in **Baptism?** Do they uphold the presence of the **Body and Blood of Christ in the Supper?** Do they demand **good works** for salvation, such as decisions, giving your life to Jesus, sinners' prayers, penances, etc.? These are works of lawlessness, because they do not flow from the Will of God, but from the commandments of men.

The fruits of such teaching are rotten and decayed. You would not want putrid, moldy fruit. But that is what false teachers produce in themselves and their people. **Only the pure Gospel creates pure fruit.** A false gospel produces false fruit, because a false gospel is no gospel at all.

There is also the opposite danger to watch out for - **Do not reject a true preacher, thinking that he is a wolf.** This is just as deadly an error, since Jesus said to His disciples, "*He who rejects you rejects Me.*" To reject a true preacher is to reject the One who sent him. So we must be extremely cautious. If your shepherd feels rough and unloving, that may be because **he preaches the Law in its full sternness.** Or if he feels sinful, that is because he **IS** sinful. What preacher isn't?

But the true fruit is to **give glory to Christ by preaching the pure Gospel** with no works. Only the true Gospel gives all the glory to God. The true fruit is to confess Christ purely in **His Word and Sacraments.** The true fruit is to **point to Christ crucified**, not to endlessly point to good works while the Cross gets only a brief mention in the sermon.

True fruits are **only from the Tree of Life** upon which the Son of Man was hung. Only where blood and water poured from our Savior's side can true fruit be nurtured. Our twisted, unclean nature makes all our good works into filthy rags. But Christ cleanses us and declares us clean. His **Blood washes away all** the scum and muck of our old Adam from our fruits, so that they are pure and beautiful in the eyes of the Father.

But Christ deliberately chose death. He allowed all the rot and decay of our sinfulness to fall upon His poor, tortured Body on the Cross. When our twisted discernment chose death, **He took that same death upon Himself.**

**CONCLUSION** So we, who in our flesh are as spiritually dumb as sheep yet as destructive as wolves, **we have been declared righteous in Christ.** He has clothed us with His Image, the Image of the Perfect Lamb of God. We are now dressed in the holy Lamb's clothing. And yet this is **not** deception, but it is the wisdom of God and the righteousness of God. Christ crucified has become our life and our holiness.

So we are known by God. **He calls us by name.** He watches over us and protects us from the evil wolves by His precious Word and Sacraments. May He keep you in this faith so that you do not throw away this precious Gospel. May His Spirit bind you tightly to His Cross, so that you do not abandon it to seek what looks good or feels good. **In the Name of this Crucified Lamb, in Whom we live. Amen.** SDG

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You that You have grafted us, a wild branch, into the True Vine, Jesus Christ, that we might bear His good fruits. Preserve us, we pray, in faithful obedience to Your Word and commandments, and make us fruitful in works of mercy, love and compassion toward all, to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O holy and most merciful God, give us ears to hear Your Word and wisdom to discern the bad fruit of false teachers who would deceive us with false hopes of salvation, that we may mark and avoid them. Provide us with faithful pastors and teachers who will feed us the good food of Your Word, rightly distinguishing and applying Your holy Law and Gospel, and who will care for us through the proper administration of Your blessed Sacraments. Bless and defend especially our Synod president; our circuit visitor; and our pastor(s) in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, bear in us through our various holy vocations Your good fruits of love, mercy, grace, compassion and forgiveness as we serve one another and our neighbors, that they may call upon Your name and glorify You in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of Your children who call upon You in their time of trouble and need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_].

<b>PRAYER REQUESTS:</b>	<b>Member or Relation</b>	<b>Pray for...</b>

Remind, encourage, console and comfort them in Your promise to hear them when they pray and to answer in the way You know to be best. Strengthen their faith that they may persevere through suffering as they live by the Spirit, putting to death the deeds of the body, and grant them healing in the present if it pleases You even as You have promised healing for all in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we approach Your table this day in reverent fear, love and trust as heirs with Christ and as Your beloved children. Forgive us our sins anew; strengthen our faith; nourish, equip and send us in Christ to be His hands, heart and voice of love, mercy and compassion in service to all to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ever-living God, receive our thanks this day for all who have fallen asleep in faith in Your Son, awaiting the joy of the resurrection. Bring us, with them, to share in the joy of the wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom that has no end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your Hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Then, Lord's Supper**