

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

*Let the nations be glad & sing for joy. (v4)*

Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

John 14:23-29

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, & you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another & the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever.. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Psalm 7

<sup>10</sup>And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain & showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>21</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty & the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, & its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, & the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory & the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. <sup>22:1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God & of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; & the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God & of the Lamb will be in it, & his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, & his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, & they will reign forever & ever.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do the following add to the *Revelation* reading? See *Exodus 13:21-22, 14:19-20; Psalm 27:1, 56:13; John 1:4, 3:17-21, 8:12-19; Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 5:6-20; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 John 1:5-7*
2. How is *Genesis 2* a model or “prototype” for this reading? What does *Ezekiel 47:1-12* add? See also *Jeremiah 2:13; John 4:7-15, 7:37-38; Revelation 2:7*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How is his name on your forehead (22:4)? See *Matthew 28:19-20; Small Catechism: Baptism; see also Luke 10:17-20; Romans 13:15; Galatians 3:27*
4. Review *Revelation 20:11-15* (& *Matthew 25:31-46*). How does this square with the notion that a tree is known by its fruit (*Matthew 12:33; Luke 6:44*)? But, does the fruit *make* the tree what it is? Review our Lutheran doctrine on good works; see *Formula of Concord Epitome & Solid Declaration IV. Good Works, SC & FC available bookofconcord.org*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Psychologist, professor emeritus, & author Jordan Peterson just posted a video regarding his recent visit to the Museum of the Bible (available <https://youtu.be/tB3qqb3U0Kc> Pressed for time? Jump ahead to 31:23) One of the common difficulties in reading *Revelation* is perceiving & mapping all its complicated cross-references to the entire Bible. How is our problem with *Revelation* connected to our society's problem with the Bible, as Dr. Peterson makes his case?
6. How do we know what is of greatest importance? How have we made the case this Easter season that the worship of the Jesus, the Lamb Who was slain, is most important in *Revelation*? In everyday life? How is it the goal of the entire Bible? For fun, also check this other, brief video from him that makes a quick, related point about the fundamental Biblical conception for human society <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpB6eDG5WnY>

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

05.22.22

Series: Worship- Heaven on Earth

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Facing God

*It's not quite like the old song "The Future's so Bright I Gotta Wear Shades"*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,  
for the glory of God is its light, & its lamp is the Lamb. (v23)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who love me will keep my word, & my Father will love them,  
and we will come to them & make our home with them. (*John 14:23*)

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