

Daily Devotion

for

- Tuesday -

Grace be unto you and peace. – Revelation 1:4.

This is a salutation of our God, written in the Holy Book by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This greeting is sent to the churches, to the multitudes of those on earth who believe in Christ, to the Christians, – to you, O Christian! A truly valid, mighty, blessed salutation of God! This nullifies every curse. It brings you God's grace and the peace of God in time and eternity. So does He greet you "*who is, and who was, and who is to come,*" Jehovah, the most high, the eternal God, God the Father, almighty Creator of heaven and earth. This salutation comes to you "*from the seven Spirits that are before His throne,*" from God the Holy Ghost, who with gifts manifold proceeds from the Father and descends upon the Christians. And this salutation comes "*from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful Witness, and the First-begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to God and His Father: to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*" For He, Jesus Christ, is equal with the Father. He says: "*I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty,*" just as the Father. "*Grace be unto you and peace!*" So does the Holy Trinity greet us – you. So does the eternal Father greet you. His heart burns for you. This greeting the eternal Spirit brings you through His Word as it is recorded in the Bible, and implants it in your heart. With this salutation does the eternal Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, greet you, who at so great a price procured grace and peace for you, and who exalts you to the most sublime heights, to His heart and into His glory. How will you respond to this salutation of God?

PRAYER. – Thus will I respond, most good and gracious God: Give, O give to me Thy grace and Thy peace! Shall I stand back when Thou meetest me so kindly? Full well do Thou know my most miserable condition, and still Thou dost greet me thus. Yes, give me Thy grace, give me Thy peace, O Triune – O eternal God! I will bask in Thy grace, in Thy peace will I exult in all eternity. Amen.

All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness.

Hymn 261, 1. (*Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*)

Bible Readings

First Reading:

Colossians 1:1-23

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: 7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

Second Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-13

55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. 4 Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. 5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. 6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. 12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.