



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, August 25, 2019

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Isaiah 58:9b-14](#) *Call the Sabbath a Delight*

[Psalm 103:1-8](#) *Bless His Holy Name*

[Hebrews 12:18-29](#) *Acceptable Worship*

[Luke 13:10-17](#) *Jesus Heals on the Sabbath*

Monday, August 26

[Psalm 109:21-31](#) *Prayer for Healing*

[Ezekiel 20:1-17](#) *My Sabbaths They Greatly Profaned*

[Hebrews 3:7-4:11](#) *Sabbath Rest for the People of God*

Tuesday, August 27

[Psalm 109:21-31](#) *Prayer for Healing*

[Ezekiel 20:18-32](#) *Israel Became like the Nations*

[Revelation 3:7-13](#) *The New Jerusalem*

Wednesday, August 28

[Psalm 109:21-31](#) *Prayer for Healing*

[Ezekiel 20:33-44](#) *The LORD Will Restore Israel*

[Luke 6:6-11](#) *Jesus Heals on the Sabbath*

Thursday, August 29

[Psalm 112](#) *The Righteous are Merciful*

[Proverbs 15:13-17](#) *Better is a Little with the Fear of the LORD*

[1 Peter 3:8-12](#) *Repay Evil with Blessing*

Friday, August 30

[Psalm 112](#) *The Righteous are Merciful*

[Proverbs 18:6-12](#) *Humility Comes Before Honor*

[1 Peter 4:7-11](#) *Good Stewards of God's Varied Grace*

Saturday, August 31

[Psalm 112](#) *The Righteous are Merciful*

[Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26](#) *The Righteous Gives and Does Not Hold Back*

[Matthew 20:20-28](#) *Requesting Seats of Honor*

The Sabbath a Delight

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Isaiah 58:9b-14](#)

^{9b} If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
¹¹ And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.
¹² And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

¹³ "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

- This is probably the text Jesus had in mind in our Gospel reading today ([Isaiah 58](#)).
- The people described in this passage have a number of issues. They consider themselves, devotedly religious and yet their God does not respond. Their works are intended to "force" God to do what they want.
- What God wants is faithful obedience in response to His love.
- Note the comparison of desperate fasting in the first few verses with the joyful keeping of the Sabbath in vv.13-14. Note the use of the word "delight". God's intention for us is delight.
- "The heart is so captivated by God that the day set apart is a joy. This is the reason for the Sabbath emphasis. It is a symbol of a whole heart and life devoted to the LORD." (*Alec Motyer*)
- Sabbath matters because it is what God did. He rested. But it also matters because it is a day of delight, a day of rest from the typical labor we pursue, a day of corporate worship and a day of service and mercy.
- Worship with the people of God: "The most basic way we can observe the Sabbath today is by participating in the public worship of God's people, united around the preaching of the Gospel and participation in the sacraments. By placing public worship near the center of our Sabbath practice, we are escaping the inevitably individualistic way many of us think about spiritual disciplines. In public worship, we are by definition united with other people. Public worship forces me into contact with people I might not otherwise like very much if not for Christ. I will say the creed with the woman who works for the politician I don't like. I'll share the supper with someone with whom I disagree. I will submit myself to spiritual leadership that I might not fully agree with." (*Jake Meador*)
- Service and mercy
- Finally, a reflection of our eternity
- We were built to work but were redeemed for rest

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org