



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + October 2022 AD + **Reformation***

A Reddening Harvest

It took years for the blackberry bush to produce good fruit. The first year it barely grew at all; the second year it produced a few fruits, whisked away by the birds and squirrels; the third year it grew and put forth sour fruit; and then, the fourth year, dozens of fat, shiny berries bent its branches low. Harvests can take patience.

When we use the prayers and devotional patterns of the Church, now 2000 years after Christ's resurrection, we are heirs of a reddening harvest. "Reddening?" Yes, reddening, because our Lord has always favored the grape of the vine; reddening, because it flows from His blood, and the blood of martyrs, yet it grows sweeter by the age; reddening, because it is fired by the Holy Spirit. Enriched by the sacrifice, wisdom, and love of Christians across 20 centuries, these words and habits come to us with such accumulated goodness and such reddening health of the Spirit.

This October, we especially remember the heritage of the Lutheran Church. The first Lutherans in what is now the United States came from Sweden and settled in Delaware. King Gustavus Adolphus II, the great liberator of Lutherans in Europe, had sent them primarily to share the Gospel with native Americans, and from their efforts came the first translation of the Scriptures and Catechism in a native American tongue. We stand on their shoulders, and the shoulders of countless others, and from us God will increase His harvest and make it even sweeter.

About the Cover Art

While the first Lutheran pastor in North America was a ship's chaplain, Rasmus Jensen, a Dane who died in the Hudson Bay area, the first Lutheran pastor in the present-day United States was the Swedish Reorus Torkillus, pictured here. He served the Swedish Colony of Fort Christina, near what is now Wilmington, Delaware, having arrived there in 1640. He died in 1643, having lived only 35 years. His congregation eventually built Holy Trinity Church, which still stands today, and is regarded as the "oldest church in North America that still stands as it was built." May the Church always do the same.

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 17 (October 2)

S Job 25:1-6; 27:1-6
Revelation 14:1-7, 13
Matthew 5:13-20

Th Job 29:1; 31:1-23
Acts 15:1-11
John 11:17-29

M Job 32:1-10, 19—
33:1, 19-28
Acts 13:44-52
John 10:19-30

F Job 29:1; 31:24-40
Acts 15:12-21
John 11:30-44

T Job 29:1-20
Acts 14:1-18
John 10:31-42

Sa Job 38:1-17
Acts 15:22-35
John 11:45-54

W Job 29:1; 30: 1-2, 16-31
Acts 14:19-28
John 11:1-16

These readings (after Sunday) correspond to pages 854– 893 in Volume IV of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 18 (October 9)

S Job 38:1, 18-41
Revelation 18:1-8
Matthew 5:21-26

Th Job 28:1-28
Acts 16:25-40
John 12:27-36a

M Job 40:1-24
Acts 15:36—16:5
John 11:55—12:8

F Esther 1:1-4, 10-19
Act 17:1-15
John 12:36b-43

T Job 40:1; 41:1-11
Acts 16:6-15
John 12:9-19

Sa Esther 2:5-8, 15-23
Acts 17:16-34
John 12:44-50

W Job 42:1-17
Acts 16:16-24
John 12:20-26

These readings correspond to pages 893—930 in Volume IV of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 19 (October 16)

S Esther 3:1—4:3
James 1:19-27
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Th Esther 7:1-10
Acts 19:11-20
Luke 4:14-30

M Esther 4:4-17
Acts 18:1-11
Luke 1:1-4; 3:1-14

F Esther 8:1-8, 15-17
Acts 19:21-41
Luke 4:31-37

T Esther 5:1-14
Acts 18:12-28
Luke 3:15-22

Sa Esther 9:1-32
Acts 20:1-16
Luke 4:38-44

W Esther 6:1-14
Acts 19:1-10
Luke 4:1-13

*These readings correspond
to pages 930-967 in Volume
IV of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 20 (October 23)

S Hosea 1:1—2:1
James 3:1-13
Matthew 13:44-52

Th Hosea 4:1-10
Acts 21:27-36
Luke 6:1-11

M Hosea 2:2-15
Acts 20:17-38
Luke 5:1-11

F Hosea 4:11-19
Acts 21:37—22:16
Luke 6:12-26

T Hosea 2:16-23
Acts 21:1-14
Luke 5:12-26

Sa Hosea 5:1-7
Acts 22:17-29
Luke 6:27-38

W Hosea 3:1-5
Acts 21:15-26
Luke 5:27-39

*These readings correspond
to pages 968-1005 in Vol-
ume IV of For All the
Saints.*